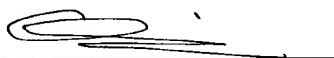


## VERIFICATION OF TRANSLATION

I, Wakako Anzai, of c/o SAKAI International Patent Office, 2-5, Kasumigaseki 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-6019 Japan, hereby declare that I am a translator of the document attached, and attached document is a true and correct translation made by me to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Japanese Patent Application No.2000-356641, filed on November 22, 2000

Signature of Translator: \_\_\_\_\_



Wakako Anzai

Date : August 31, 2005

(TRANSLATION)

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APPLICANT(S) : Ricoh Co., Ltd.

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[TITLE OF INVENTION] INFORMATION DELIVERING SYSTEM,  
INFORMATION DELIVERING METHOD, COMPUTER-READABLE  
RECORDING MEDIUM THAT STORES COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR  
REALIZING THE METHOD  
[NUMBER OF CLAIMS] 31  
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[Title of the Invention] Information delivering system,  
information delivering method, computer-readable  
recording medium that stores computer program for  
5 realizing the method

[Scope of Claims for Patent]

[Claim 1] An information delivering system  
comprising:

a plurality of copying machines and a managing  
10 device for managing the copying machines by the use of  
a managing database accumulating therein management  
information on each of the copying machines and outputs  
delivery information delivered from the managing device  
from the copying machine, wherein the managing device  
15 includes

a delivery request receiving unit which receives a  
delivery request for the delivery information from a  
delivery client terminal operated by an information  
delivery client;

20 a specifying unit which specifies the copying  
machine adapted to the delivery request received by the  
delivery request receiving unit based on the management  
information accumulated in the managing database; and

a delivery information transmitting unit which  
25 transmits the delivery information requested to be



delivered to the copying machine specified by the specifying unit.

[Claim 2] The information delivering system according to claim 1, wherein the managing database  
5 accumulates therein, as the management information, the installation position of each of the copying machines or the location of a user who uses the copying machine, the delivery request receiving unit receives the delivery request including a delivery area to which at least the  
10 delivery contents are delivered, and the specifying unit specifies the copying machine to which the delivery information is to be transmitted based on whether or not the installation position of each of the copying machines or the location of the user who uses the copying machine  
15 accumulated in the managing database ranges within the delivery area of the delivery request.

[Claim 3] The information delivering system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the managing database accumulates therein, as the management information, the  
20 type of component parts constituting each of the copying machines, the delivery request receiving unit receives the delivery request including an output type indicating whether at least the delivery contents are output in color or monochrome, and the specifying unit compares the  
25 output type included in the delivery request with the type

of component parts constituting each of the copying machines accumulated in the managing database so as to specify the copying machine to which the delivery information is to be transmitted.

5           [Claim 4] The information delivering system according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the managing device further comprises a delivery information generating unit which collects the delivery information to be delivered to each of the copying machines specified by the  
10 specifying unit per copying machine so as to generate the delivery information for each of the copying machines upon receipt of the delivery request from the plurality of delivery client terminals, the delivery information transmitting unit transmitting the delivery information  
15 generated by the delivery information generating unit to each of the copying machines specified by the specifying unit.

          [Claim 5] The information delivering system according to claim 4, wherein the managing device further  
20 comprises a delivery information storing unit which stores therein the delivery information for each of the copying machines generated by the delivery information generating unit.

          [Claim 6] The information delivering system  
25 according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the managing

device further comprises: an estimation request  
receiving unit which receives a delivery estimation  
request from the delivery client terminal; an acquiring  
unit which acquires the number of copying machines  
5 adapted to the estimation request received by the  
estimation request receiving unit based on the management  
information accumulated in the managing database; an  
approximating unit which approximates a charge for the  
information delivery based on the number of copying  
10 machines acquired by the acquiring unit; and an  
estimation result returning unit which returns an  
estimation result including the charge for the  
information delivery approximated by the approximating  
unit to the delivery client terminal.

15 [Claim 7] An information delivering system  
comprising:

a plurality of copying machines and a managing  
device for charging a user of each of the copying machines  
for a copying charge per predetermined period of time by  
20 the use of a managing database accumulating therein data  
relating to the number of copying sheets received by each  
of the copying machines together with management  
information for each of the copying machines and outputs  
delivery information delivered from the managing device  
25 from the copying machine, wherein the managing device

includes

a delivery request receiving unit which receives a delivery request for the delivery information from a delivery client terminal operated by an information

5 delivery client;

a specifying unit which specifies the copying machine adapted to the delivery request received by the delivery request receiving unit based on the management information accumulated in the managing database;

10 a delivery information transmitting unit which transmits the delivery information requested to be delivered to the copying machine specified by the specifying unit;

a delivery charge calculating unit which calculates  
15 a delivery charge to be charged to the delivery client;  
and

a charging unit which charges the delivery charge calculated by the delivery charge calculating unit in addition to the copying charge based on data relating to  
20 the number of copying sheets accumulated in the managing database.

[Claim 8] The information delivering system according to claim 7, wherein the delivery charge calculating unit calculates the delivery charge based on  
25 a cumulative value of points corresponding to the type

or printing portion of a printing sheet, on which the delivery contents are printed by the copying machine.

[Claim 9] The information delivering system according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the delivery charge  
5 calculating unit discounts the copying charge in response to the number of output times including the delivery information by the copying machine.

[Claim 10] The information delivering system according to claim 7, 8 or 9, wherein the charging unit  
10 transmits the copying charge and the delivery charge to a server of a card company with which the user of the copying machine and the delivery client contract, and the card company charges the user of the copying machine and the delivery client for the copying charge and the  
15 delivery charge received from the managing device, respectively.

[Claim 11] The information delivering system according to any one of claims 7 to 10, wherein the managing device further comprises: a bar code applying  
20 unit which applies a bar code to the delivery request upon receipt of the delivery request from the delivery client terminal by the delivery request receiving unit; and a bar code discounting unit which discounts the copying charge by the copying machine possessed by the user upon  
25 receipt of predetermined bar code information from the

copying machine or a POS terminal of the delivery client and identification information of the user possessing the copying machine.

[Claim 12] The information delivering system  
5 according to claim 11, wherein the managing device further comprises a delivery effect managing unit which manages the delivery effect of the delivery request based on the predetermined bar code information received from the copying machine or the POS terminal of the delivery  
10 client and the identification information of the user of the copying machine.

[Claim 13] The information delivering system according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the managing device further comprises: an user attribute  
15 managing unit which registers and managing user attributes of the delivery client received from the copying machine; and a registration notifying unit which notifies the delivery client terminal that the user attributes are registered in the user attribute managing  
20 unit.

[Claim 14] The information delivering system according to any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the copying machine prints the delivery information at the margin of the printing sheet when a document is copied on the  
25 printing sheet in the case where the copying machine

receives the delivery information from the managing device.

[Claim 15] The information delivering system according to any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the copying  
5 machine displays the delivery information on a console panel of the copying machine during a document copying operation in the case where the copying machine receives the delivery information from the managing device.

[Claim 16] An information delivering method in an  
10 information delivering system which includes a plurality of copying machines and a managing device for managing the copying machines by the use of a managing database accumulating therein management information on each of the copying machines and outputs delivery information  
15 delivered from the managing device from the copying machine, wherein the managing device performs:

a delivery request receiving step of receiving a delivery request for the delivery information from a delivery client terminal operated by an information  
20 delivery client;

a specifying step of specifying the copying machine adapted to the delivery request received in the delivery request receiving step based on the management information accumulated in the managing database; and  
25 a delivery information transmitting step of

transmitting the delivery information requested to be delivered to the copying machine specified in the specifying step.

[Claim 17] The information delivering method  
5 according to claim 16, wherein the managing database accumulates therein, as the management information, the installation position of each of the copying machines or the location of a user who uses the copying machine, the delivery request including a delivery area to which at  
10 least the delivery contents are delivered is received in the delivery request receiving step, and the copying machine to which the delivery information is to be transmitted is specified in the specifying step based on whether or not the installation position of each of the  
15 copying machines or the location of the user who uses the copying machine accumulated in the managing database ranges within the delivery area of the delivery request.

[Claim 18] The information delivering method  
according to claim 16 or 17, wherein the managing database  
20 accumulates therein, as the management information, the type of component parts constituting each of the copying machines, the delivery request including an output type indicating whether at least the delivery contents are output in color or monochrome is received in the delivery  
25 request receiving step, and the output type included in



the delivery request is compared with the type of component parts constituting each of the copying machines accumulated in the managing database so as to specify the copying machine to which the delivery information is to be transmitted in the specifying step.

[Claim 19] The information delivering method according to claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein the managing device further performs a delivery information generating step of collecting the delivery information to be delivered to each of the copying machines specified in the specifying step per copying machine so as to generate the delivery information for each of the copying machines upon receipt of the delivery request from the plurality of delivery client terminals, and the delivery information generated in the delivery information generating step is transmitted to each of the copying machines specified in the specifying step in the delivery information transmitting step.

[Claim 20] The information delivering method according to claim 19, wherein the managing device further performs a delivery information storing step of storing therein the delivery information for each of the copying machines generated in the delivery information generating step.

[Claim 21] The information delivering method

according to any one of claim 16 to 20, wherein the managing device further performs: an estimation request receiving step of receiving a delivery estimation request from the delivery client terminal; an acquiring step of  
5 acquiring the number of copying machines adapted to the estimation request received in the estimation request receiving step based on the management information accumulated in the managing database; an approximating step of approximating a charge for the information  
10 delivery based on the number of copying machines acquired in the acquiring step; and an estimation result returning step of returning an estimation result including the charge for the information delivery approximated in the approximating step to the delivery client terminal.

15 [Claim 22] An information delivering method in an information delivering system which includes a plurality of copying machines and a managing device for charging a user of each of the copying machines for a copying charge per predetermined period of time by the use of a managing  
20 database accumulating therein data relating to the number of copying sheets received by each of the copying machines together with management information for each of the copying machines and outputs delivery information delivered from the managing device from the copying  
25 machine, wherein the managing device performs:

a delivery request receiving step of receiving a delivery request for the delivery information from a delivery client terminal operated by an information delivery client;

5 a specifying step of specifying the copying machine adapted to the delivery request received in the delivery request receiving step based on the management information accumulated in the managing database;

a delivery information transmitting step of  
10 transmitting the delivery information requested to be delivered to the copying machine specified in the specifying step;

a delivery charge calculating step of calculating a delivery charge to be charged to the delivery client;

15 and

a charging step of charging the delivery charge calculated in the delivery charge calculating step in addition to the copying charge based on data relating to the number of copying sheets accumulated in the managing  
20 database.

[Claim 23] The information delivering method according to claim 22, wherein the delivery charge is calculated in the delivery charge calculating step based on a cumulative value of points corresponding to the type  
25 or printing portion of a printing sheet, on which the

delivery contents are printed by the copying machine.

[Claim 24] The information delivering method according to claim 22 or 23, wherein the copying charge is discounted in the delivery charge calculating step in  
5 response to the number of output times including the delivery information by the copying machine.

[Claim 25] The information delivering method according to claim 22, 23 or 24, wherein the copying charge and the delivery charge are transmitted to a server  
10 of a card company, with which the user of the copying machine and the delivery client contract, in the charging step, and the card company charges the user of the copying machine and the delivery client for the copying charge and the delivery charge received from the managing device,  
15 respectively.

[Claim 26] The information delivering method according to any one of claim 22 to 25, wherein the managing device further performs: a bar code applying step of applying a bar code to the delivery request upon  
20 receipt of the delivery request from the delivery client terminal in the delivery request receiving step; and a bar code discounting step of discounting the copying charge by the copying machine possessed by the user upon receipt of predetermined bar code information from the  
25 copying machine or a POS terminal of the delivery client

and identification information of the user possessing the copying machine.

[Claim 27] The information delivering method according to claim 26, wherein the managing device  
5 further performs a delivery effect managing step of managing the delivery effect of the delivery request based on the predetermined bar code information received from the copying machine or the POS terminal of the delivery client and the identification information of the  
10 user of the copying machine.

[Claim 28] The information delivering method according to any one of claim 16 to 27, wherein the managing device further performs: a user attribute managing step of registering and managing user attributes  
15 of the delivery client received from the copying machine; and a registration notifying step of notifying the delivery client terminal that the user attributes are registered in the user attribute managing step.

[Claim 29] The information delivering method  
20 according to any one of claims 16 to 28, wherein the copying machine prints the delivery information at the margin of the printing sheet when a document is copied on the printing sheet in the case where the copying machine receives the delivery information from the  
25 managing device.

[Claim 30] The information delivering method according to any one of claims 16 to 29, wherein the copying machine displays the delivery information on a console panel of the copying machine during a document  
5 copying operation in the case where the copying machine receives the delivery information from the managing device.

[Claim 31] A computer-readable recording medium that stores a computer program for realizing an  
10 information delivering method according to claims 16 to 30 in an information delivering system.

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention]

15 The present invention relates to an information delivering system, an information delivering method and a computer-readable recording medium that stores a computer program for realizing the method that includes a plurality of copying machines and a managing device for  
20 managing the copying machines by the use of a managing database accumulating therein the installation position of each of the copying machines or the location of a user who uses the copying machine or the type of component parts constituting each of the copying machines, and  
25 output delivery information delivered from the managing

device from the copying machine. Particularly, the present invention relates to an information delivering system, an information delivering method and a computer-readable recording medium that speedily offer  
5 an advertisement to a customer with high efficiency in such a manner as to fulfill the needs of the advertisement client by the use of a system to be used for remotely managing the copying machine.

[0002]

10 [Prior Art]

In a copying machine, there has been known a system for notifying a centrally managing device disposed at the center of cumulative printing times, the residual amount of toner or the like, occurrence of a failure or the like,  
15 summarizing the use condition of the copying machine, or remotely diagnosing the copying machine by the use of a public telephone line network. For example, Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 6-164802 discloses a managing system for an image forming apparatus for  
20 centrally managing data on a copying machine via a public line network.

[0003]

In this way, the managing system serving as a peripheral device for such a copying machine has been  
25 satisfactorily improved in recent years, and therefore,

there has appeared an information delivering system for delivering information such as an advertisement or news to the copying machine by the use of the managing system.

[0004]

5           For example, Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open  
No. 2000-59554 ("first prior art") discloses an  
information delivering system configured such that  
information such as an advertisement or news stored in  
a managing device is periodically delivered to a copying  
10 machine, which then outputs the delivered information.  
According to the first prior art, the information such  
as an advertisement or news is periodically delivered to  
the copying machine by using a system to be normally used  
in remotely diagnosing the copying machine, and the  
15 information is displayed on a console panel of the copying  
machine during a copying operation, thereby preventing  
any dullness which a user may feel when the same  
advertisement is displayed all the time.

[0005]

20           Furthermore, Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open  
No. 8-256256 ("second prior art") discloses an image  
forming system configured such that a copying machine is  
connected to an advertisement managing server via a  
network, and when the copying machine makes a request for  
25 an advertisement image added with the shape of a margin



space of a document image, the advertisement managing server transmits an advertisement image having a shape much similar to the shape of the margin space to the copying machine. According to the second prior art, it is possible to offer the advertisement adapted to the margin space of the image of an original document to be copied.

[0006]

[Problems to be Solved by the Invention]

However, since it is presumed that the information to be advertised is previously registered in the managing device in the conventional information advertisement system typified by the above-described First or Second Prior Art, it is unclear as to however the information to be advertised is registered in the managing device.

[0007]

Consequently, an operator of the managing device must normally receive a command from an advertisement client so as to register the information to be advertised in the managing device every time, thereby arising a problem that the information to be advertised cannot be efficiently registered in the managing device. Moreover, there may arise a problem that if the advertisement client wants to advertise something at once, it is impossible to fulfill such needs of the advertisement client.

Additionally, there may arise a problem that the above-described prior art cannot fulfill the needs of the advertisement client, for example, the area of a customer to which the advertisement client wants to direct the advertisement.

[0008]

In view of this, it is remarkably important to speedily offer an advertisement to a customer with high efficiency in such a manner as to fulfill the needs of the advertisement client by the use of a system to be used for remotely managing the copying machine.

[0009]

It is an object of the present invention to provide an information advertising system, an information advertising method and a computer-readable recording medium in which a program enabling a computer to execute the method is recorded, in which an advertisement can be speedily offered to a customer with high efficiency in such a manner as to fulfill the needs of an advertisement client by the use of a system to be used for remotely managing the copying machine.

[0010]

[Means to Solve the Problems]

In order to solve the above problems and achieve the object, the information delivering system according to

claim 1 comprises, a plurality of copying machines and a managing device for managing the copying machines by the use of a managing database accumulating therein management information on each of the copying machines  
5 and outputs delivery information delivered from the managing device from the copying machine. The managing device comprises, a delivery request receiving unit which receives a delivery request for the delivery information from a delivery client terminal operated by an  
10 information delivery client, a specifying unit which specifies the copying machine adapted to the delivery request received by the delivery request receiving unit based on the management information accumulated in the managing database, and a delivery information  
15 transmitting unit which transmits the delivery information requested to be delivered to the copying machine specified by the specifying unit.

[0011]

According to the invention of claim 1, the  
20 information delivering system is configured such that the delivery request for the delivery information is received from the delivery client terminal to be operated by the delivery client requesting for the information, the copying machine adapted to the received delivery request  
25 is specified based on the management information

accumulated in the managing database, and the delivery information requested to be delivered is transmitted to the specified copying machine, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering  
5 system in which the delivery fulfilling the needs of the delivery client can be speedily offered to the customer with high efficiency by using the system used for remotely managing the copying machine.

[0012]

10 The information delivering system according to claim 2, in the invention of claim 1, the managing database accumulates therein, as the management information, the installation position of each of the copying machines or the location of a user who uses the  
15 copying machine, the delivery request receiving unit receives the delivery request including a delivery area to which at least the delivery contents are delivered, and the specifying unit specifies the copying machine to which the delivery information is to be transmitted based  
20 on whether or not the installation position of each of the copying machines or the location of the user who uses the copying machine accumulated in the managing database ranges within the delivery area of the delivery request.

[0013]

25 According to the invention of claim 2, the

information delivering system is configured such that the delivery request including the delivery area, to which at least the delivery contents are delivered, is received, and the copying machine, to which the delivery  
5 information is to be transmitted, is specified based on whether or not the installation position of each of the copying machines or the location of the user who uses the copying machine accumulated in the managing database ranges within the delivery area of the delivery request,  
10 thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering system in which the copying machine within the delivery area of the delivery intended to be requested by the delivery client can be efficiently specified.

15 [0014]

The information delivering system according to claim 3, in the invention of claim 1 or 2, the managing database accumulates therein, as the management information, the type of component parts constituting  
20 each of the copying machines, the delivery request receiving unit receives the delivery request including an output type indicating whether at least the delivery contents are output in color or monochrome, and the specifying unit compares the output type included in the  
25 delivery request with the type of component parts

constituting each of the copying machines accumulated in the managing database so as to specify the copying machine to which the delivery information is to be transmitted.

[0015]

5           According to the invention of claim 3, the information delivering system is configured such that the delivery request including the output type indicating whether at least the delivery contents are output in color or monochrome is received, and the output type included  
10 in the delivery request is compared with the type of component parts constituting each of the copying machines accumulated in the managing database, so that the copying machine, to which the delivery information is to be transmitted, is specified, thus producing the effect that  
15 there can be provided the information delivering system in which the copying machine constituted adaptively to the delivery request, for example, a color copying machine in the case of printing in red, can be efficiently specified.

20           [0016]

          The information delivering system according to claim 4, in the invention of claim 1, 2 or 3, the managing device further comprises a delivery information generating unit which collects the delivery information  
25 to be delivered to each of the copying machines specified

by the specifying unit per copying machine so as to generate the delivery information for each of the copying machines upon receipt of the delivery request from the plurality of delivery client terminals, the delivery information transmitting unit transmitting the delivery information generated by the delivery information generating unit to each of the copying machines specified by the specifying unit.

[0017]

10           According to the invention of claim 4, the information delivering system is configured such that the delivery information to be delivered to each of the copying machines is collected per copying machine so as to generate the delivery information for each of the copying machines upon receipt of the delivery request from the plurality of delivery client terminals, and the generated delivery information is transmitted to each of the copying machines, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering system in which the delivery contents for each of the copying machines can be efficiently transmitted to each of the copying machines even upon receipt of numerous delivery requests having limited conditions.

[0018]

25           The information delivering system according to

claim 5, in the invention of claim 4, the managing device further comprises a delivery information storing unit which stores therein the delivery information for each of the copying machines generated by the delivery  
5 information generating unit.

[0019]

According to the invention of claim 5, the information delivering system is configured such that the generated delivery information for each of the copying  
10 machines is stored, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering system in which the delivery request can be speedily sent again even in the case where the delivery contents may be accidentally lost in each of the copying machines.

15 [0020]

The information delivering system according to claim 6, in the invention of claims 1 to 5, wherein the managing device further comprises: an estimation request receiving unit which receives a delivery estimation  
20 request from the delivery client terminal; an acquiring unit which acquires the number of copying machines adapted to the estimation request received by the estimation request receiving unit based on the management information accumulated in the managing database; an  
25 approximating unit which approximates a charge for the



information delivery based on the number of copying machines acquired by the acquiring unit; and an estimation result returning unit which returns an estimation result including the charge for the  
5 information delivery approximated by the approximating unit to the delivery client terminal.

[0021]

According to the invention of claim 6, the information delivering system is configured such that the  
10 managing device receives the delivery estimation request from the delivery client terminal, acquires the number of copying machines adapted to the estimation request based on the management information accumulated in the managing database, approximates the charge for the  
15 information delivery based on the acquired number of copying machines, and returns the estimation result including the charge for the approximated information delivery to the delivery client terminal, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information  
20 delivering system in which the delivery charge can be previously estimated in the case where the delivery charge is collected based on the number of copying sheets including the delivery.

[0022]

25 An information delivering system according to claim

7, the system includes, a plurality of copying machines and a managing device for charging a user of each of the copying machines for a copying charge per predetermined period of time by the use of a managing database

5 accumulating therein data relating to the number of copying sheets received by each of the copying machines together with management information for each of the copying machines and outputs delivery information delivered from the managing device from the copying

10 machine, wherein the managing device includes: a delivery request receiving unit which receives a delivery request for the delivery information from a delivery client terminal operated by an information delivery client; a specifying unit which specifies the copying machine

15 adapted to the delivery request received by the delivery request receiving unit based on the management information accumulated in the managing database; a delivery information transmitting unit which transmits the delivery information requested to be delivered to the

20 copying machine specified by the specifying unit; a delivery charge calculating unit which calculates a delivery charge to be charged to the delivery client; and a charging unit which charges the delivery charge calculated by the delivery charge calculating unit in

25 addition to the copying charge based on data relating to

the number of copying sheets accumulated in the managing database.

[0023]

According to the invention of claim 7, the  
5 information delivering system is configured such that the  
managing device receives the delivery request for the  
delivery information from the delivery client terminal  
operated by the delivery client requesting for the  
information, specifies the copying machine adapted to the  
10 received delivery request based on the management  
information accumulated in the managing database,  
transmits the delivery information requested to be  
delivered to the specified copying machine, calculates  
the delivery charge charged to the delivery client, and  
15 charges the calculated delivery charge in addition to the  
copying charge based on the data relating to the number  
of copying sheets accumulated in the managing database,  
thus producing the effect that there can be provided the  
information delivering system in which the delivery  
20 charge can be efficiently charged by using the  
conventional system for charging the copying charge.

[0024]

The information delivering system according to  
claim 8, in the invention of claim 7, the delivery charge  
25 calculating unit calculates the delivery charge based on

a cumulative value of points corresponding to the type or printing portion of a printing sheet, on which the delivery contents are printed by the copying machine.

[0025]

5           According to the invention of claim 8, the information delivering system is configured such that the delivery charge is calculated based on the cumulative value of the points corresponding to the type or printing portion of the printing sheet, on which the delivery  
10 contents are printed by the copying machine, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering system in which the proper delivery charge can be calculated based on the delivery effect such that the point is low in the case where the  
15 used sheets are used, the point is high in the case where the new sheets are used, the point is high in the case where the printing is performed on the cover page and the point is low in the case where the printing is performed on a page other than the cover page.

20           [0026]

The information delivering system according to claim 9, in the invention of claim 7 or 8, the delivery charge calculating unit discounts the copying charge in response to the number of output times including the  
25 delivery information by the copying machine.

[0027]

According to the invention of claim 9, the information delivering system is configured such that the copying charge is discounted in response to the number  
5 of output times including the delivery information by the copying machine, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering system in which an incentive for the delivery copying can be enhanced since the copying charge per se is reduced as the outputs  
10 inclusive of the delivery contents are increased in quantity.

[0028]

The information delivering system according to claim 10, in the invention of claim 7, 8 or 9, the charging  
15 unit transmits the copying charge and the delivery charge to a server of a card company with which the user of the copying machine and the delivery client contract, and the card company charges the user of the copying machine and the delivery client for the copying charge and the  
20 delivery charge received from the managing device, respectively.

[0029]

According to the invention of claim 10, the information delivering system is configured such that the  
25 copying charge and the delivery charge are transmitted

to the server of the card company with which the user of the copying machine and the delivery client contract, and the card company charges the user of the copying machine and the delivery client for the copying charge and the  
5 delivery charge received from the managing device, respectively, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering system in which the charges can be efficiently made by using so-called card payment.

10 [0030]

The information delivering system according to claim 11, in the invention of claims 7 to 10, the managing device further comprises: a bar code applying unit which applies a bar code to the delivery request upon receipt  
15 of the delivery request from the delivery client terminal by the delivery request receiving unit; and a bar code discounting unit which discounts the copying charge by the copying machine possessed by the user upon receipt of predetermined bar code information from the copying  
20 machine or a POS terminal of the delivery client and identification information of the user possessing the copying machine.

[0031]

According to the invention of claim 11, the  
25 information delivering system is configured such that the

managing device applies the bar code to the delivery request upon receipt of the delivery request from the delivery client terminal, and discounts the copying charge by the copying machine possessed by the user upon  
5 receipt of the predetermined bar code information from the copying machine or the POS terminal of the delivery client and the identification information of the user possessing the copying machine, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering  
10 system in which the bar code printed together with the delivery can be positively read, so as to enhance the delivery effect.

[0032]

The information delivering system according to  
15 claim 12, in the invention of claim 11, the managing device further comprises a delivery effect managing unit which manages the delivery effect of the delivery request based on the predetermined bar code information received from the copying machine or the POS terminal of the  
20 delivery client and the identification information of the user of the copying machine.

[0033]

According to the invention of claim 12, the information delivering system is configured such that the  
25 delivery effect of the delivery request is managed based

on the predetermined bar code information received from the copying machine or the POS terminal of the delivery client and the identification information of the customer possessing the copying machine, thus producing the effect  
5 that there can be provided the information delivering system in which it is possible to efficiently grasp the delivery effect as to what delivery contents which the customer is interested in.

[0034]

10 The information delivering system according to claim 13, in the invention of claims 1 to 12, the managing device further comprises: an user attribute managing unit which registers and managing user attributes of the delivery client received from the copying machine; and  
15 a registration notifying unit which notifies the delivery client terminal that the user attributes are registered in the user attribute managing unit.

[0035]

According to the invention of claim 13, the  
20 information delivering system is configured such that the user attributes of the delivery client received from the copying machine are registered and managed, and the delivery client terminal is notified that the user attributes are registered, thus producing the effect that  
25 there can be provided the information delivering system



in which the information can be fed back from the copying machine to the delivery client.

[0036]

The information delivering system according claim  
5 14, in the invention of claims 1 to 13, the copying machine prints the delivery information at the margin of the printing sheet when a document is copied on the printing sheet in the case where the copying machine receives the delivery information from the managing device.

10 [0037]

According to the invention of claim 14, the information delivering system is configured such that the delivery contents are printed at the margin of the printing sheet when the document is copied on the printing  
15 sheet in the case where the copying machine receives the delivery contents from the managing device, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering system in which the delivery effect can be obtained by directly delivering and  
20 printing the delivery contents at the lower margin or the like of the printing sheet.

[0038]

The information delivering system according to claim 15, in the invention of claims 1 to 13, the copying  
25 machine displays the delivery information on a console

panel of the copying machine during a document copying operation in the case where the copying machine receives the delivery information from the managing device.

[0039]

5           According to the invention of claim 15, the information delivering system is configured such that the delivery contents are displayed on the console panel of the copying machine during the document copying operation in the case where the copying machine receives the  
10 delivery contents from the managing device, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering system in which the customer possessing the operative copying machine can grasp the delivery contents in an inoperative time.

15           [0040]

          An information delivering method according to claim 16, the method in an information delivering system which includes a plurality of copying machines and a managing device for managing the copying machines by the use of  
20 a managing database accumulating therein management information on each of the copying machines and outputs delivery information delivered from the managing device from the copying machine, wherein the managing device performs: a delivery request receiving step of receiving  
25 a delivery request for the delivery information from a

delivery client terminal operated by an information  
delivery client; a specifying step of specifying the  
copying machine adapted to the delivery request received  
in the delivery request receiving step based on the  
5 management information accumulated in the managing  
database; and a delivery information transmitting step  
of transmitting the delivery information requested to be  
delivered to the copying machine specified in the  
specifying step.

10 [0041]

According to the invention of claim 16, the  
information delivering method is configured such that the  
delivery request for the delivery information is received  
from the delivery client terminal to be operated by the  
15 delivery client requesting for the information, the  
copying machine adapted to the received delivery request  
is specified based on the management information  
accumulated in the managing database, and the delivery  
information requested to be delivered is transmitted to  
20 the specified copying machine, thus producing the effect  
that there can be provided the information delivering  
method in which the delivery fulfilling the needs of the  
delivery client can be speedily offered to the customer  
with high efficiency by using the system used for remotely  
25 managing the copying machine.

[0042]

The information delivering method according to claim 17, in the invention of claim 16, the managing database accumulates therein, as the management  
5 information, the installation position of each of the copying machines or the location of a user who uses the copying machine, the delivery request including a delivery area to which at least the delivery contents are delivered is received in the delivery request receiving  
10 step, and the copying machine to which the delivery information is to be transmitted is specified in the specifying step based on whether or not the installation position of each of the copying machines or the location of the user who uses the copying machine accumulated in  
15 the managing database ranges within the delivery area of the delivery request.

[0043]

According to the invention of claim 17, the information delivering method is configured such that the  
20 delivery request including the delivery area, to which at least the delivery contents are delivered, is received, and the copying machine, to which the delivery information is to be transmitted, is specified based on whether or not the installation position of each of the  
25 copying machines or the location of the user who uses the

copying machine accumulated in the managing database ranges within the delivery area of the delivery request, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in which the copying  
5 machine within the delivery area of the delivery intended to be requested by the delivery client can be efficiently specified.

[0044]

The information delivering method according to  
10 claim 18, in the invention of claim 16 or 17, wherein the managing database accumulates therein, as the management information, the type of component parts constituting each of the copying machines, the delivery request including an output type indicating whether at least the  
15 delivery contents are output in color or monochrome is received in the delivery request receiving step, and the output type included in the delivery request is compared with the type of component parts constituting each of the copying machines accumulated in the managing database so  
20 as to specify the copying machine to which the delivery information is to be transmitted in the specifying step.

[0045]

According to the invention of claim 18, the information delivering method is configured such that the  
25 delivery request including the output type indicating

whether at least the delivery contents are output in color or monochrome is received, and the output type included in the delivery request is compared with the type of component parts constituting each of the copying machines  
5 accumulated in the managing database so that the copying machine, to which the delivery information is to be transmitted, is specified, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in which the copying machine constituted adaptively to  
10 the delivery request, for example, a color copying machine in the case of printing in red, can be efficiently specified.

[0046]

The information delivering method according to  
15 claim 19, in the invention of claim 16, 17 or 18, the managing device further performs a delivery information generating step of collecting the delivery information to be delivered to each of the copying machines specified in the specifying step per copying machine so as to  
20 generate the delivery information for each of the copying machines upon receipt of the delivery request from the plurality of delivery client terminals, and the delivery information generated in the delivery information  
25 generating step is transmitted to each of the copying machines specified in the specifying step in the delivery

information transmitting step.

[0047]

According to the invention of claim 19, the information delivering method is configured such that the delivery information to be delivered to each of the copying machines is collected per copying machine so as to generate the delivery information for each of the copying machines upon receipt of the delivery request from the plurality of delivery client terminals, and the generated delivery information is transmitted to each of the copying machines, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in which the delivery contents for each of the copying machines can be efficiently transmitted to each of the copying machines even upon receipt of numerous delivery requests having limited conditions.

[0048]

The information delivering method according to claim 20, in the invention of claim 19, the managing device further performs a delivery information storing step of storing therein the delivery information for each of the copying machines generated in the delivery information generating step.

[0049]

According to the invention of claim 20, the

information delivering method is configured such that the generated delivery information for each of the copying machines is stored, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in  
5 which the delivery request contents can be speedily sent again even in the case where the delivery request contents may be accidentally lost in each of the copying machines.

[0050]

The information delivering method according to  
10 claim 21, in the invention of claims 16 to 20, the managing device further performs: an estimation request receiving step of receiving a delivery estimation request from the delivery client terminal; an acquiring step of acquiring the number of copying machines adapted to the estimation  
15 request received in the estimation request receiving step based on the management information accumulated in the managing database; an approximating step of approximating a charge for the information delivery based on the number of copying machines acquired in the  
20 acquiring step; and an estimation result returning step of returning an estimation result including the charge for the information delivery approximated in the approximating step to the delivery client terminal.

[0051]

25 According to the invention of claim 21, the



information delivering method is configured such that the managing device receives the delivery estimation request from the delivery client terminal, acquires the number of copying machines adapted to the estimation request  
5 based on the management information accumulated in the managing database, approximates the charge for the information delivery based on the acquired number of copying machines, and returns the estimation result including the charge for the approximated information  
10 delivery to the delivery client terminal, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in which the delivery charge can be previously estimated in the case where the delivery charge is collected based on the number of copying sheets  
15 including the delivery.

[0052]

An information delivering method according to claim 22, the method in an information delivering system which includes a plurality of copying machines and a managing  
20 device for charging a user of each of the copying machines for a copying charge per predetermined period of time by the use of a managing database accumulating therein data relating to the number of copying sheets received by each of the copying machines together with management  
25 information for each of the copying machines and outputs

delivery information delivered from the managing device from the copying machine, wherein the managing device performs: a delivery request receiving step of receiving a delivery request for the delivery information from a delivery client terminal operated by an information delivery client; a specifying step of specifying the copying machine adapted to the delivery request received in the delivery request receiving step based on the management information accumulated in the managing database; a delivery information transmitting step of transmitting the delivery information requested to be delivered to the copying machine specified in the specifying step; a delivery charge calculating step of calculating a delivery charge to be charged to the delivery client; and a charging step of charging the delivery charge calculated in the delivery charge calculating step in addition to the copying charge based on data relating to the number of copying sheets accumulated in the managing database.

20 [0053]

According to the invention of claim 22, the information delivering method is configured such that the managing device receives the delivery request for the delivery information from the delivery client terminal operated by the delivery client requesting for the

information, specifies the copying machine adapted to the received delivery request based on the management information accumulated in the managing database, transmits the delivery information requested to be  
5 delivered to the specified copying machine, calculates the delivery charge charged to the delivery client, and charges the calculated delivery charge in addition to the copying charge based on the data relating to the number of copying sheets accumulated in the managing database,  
10 thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in which the delivery charge can be efficiently charged by using the conventional system for charging the copying charge.

[0054]

15 The information delivering method according to claim 23, in the invention of claim 22, the delivery charge is calculated in the delivery charge calculating step based on a cumulative value of points corresponding to the type or printing portion of a printing sheet, on  
20 which the delivery contents are printed by the copying machine.

[0055]

According to the invention of claim 23, the information delivering method is configured such that the  
25 delivery charge is calculated based on the cumulative

value of the points corresponding to the type or printing  
portion of the printing sheet, on which the delivery  
contents are printed by the copying machine, thus  
producing the effect that there can be provided the  
5 information delivering method in which the proper  
delivery charge can be calculated based on the delivery  
effect such that the point is low in the case where the  
used sheets are used, the point is high in the case where  
the new sheets are used, the point is high in the case  
10 where the printing is performed on the cover page and the  
point is low in the case where the printing is performed  
on a page other than the cover page.

[0056]

The information delivering method according to  
15 claim 24, in the invention of claim 22 or 23, the copying  
charge is discounted in the delivery charge calculating  
step in response to the number of output times including  
the delivery information by the copying machine.

[0057]

20 According to the invention of claim 24, the  
information delivering method is configured such that the  
copying charge is discounted in response to the number  
of output times including the delivery information by the  
copying machine, thus producing the effect that there can  
25 be provided the information delivering method in which

an incentive for the delivery copying can be enhanced since the copying charge per se is reduced as the outputs inclusive of the delivery contents are increased in quantity.

5 [0058]

The information delivering method according to claim 25, in the invention of claim 22, 23 or 24, the copying charge and the delivery charge are transmitted to a server of a card company, with which the user of the  
10 copying machine and the delivery client contract, in the charging step, and the card company charges the user of the copying machine and the delivery client for the copying charge and the delivery charge received from the managing device, respectively.

15 [0059]

According to the invention of claim 25, the information delivering method is configured such that the copying charge and the delivery charge are transmitted to the server of the card company with which the user of  
20 the copying machine and the delivery client contract, and the card company charges the user of the copying machine and the delivery client for the copying charge and the delivery charge received from the managing device, respectively, thus producing the effect that there can  
25 be provided the information delivering method in which

the charges can be efficiently made by using so-called card payment.

[0060]

The information delivering method according to  
5 claim 26, in the invention of claims 22 to 25, the managing  
device further performs: a bar code applying step of  
applying a bar code to the delivery request upon receipt  
of the delivery request from the delivery client terminal  
in the delivery request receiving step; and a bar code  
10 discounting step of discounting the copying charge by the  
copying machine possessed by the user upon receipt of  
predetermined bar code information from the copying  
machine or a POS terminal of the delivery client and  
identification information of the user possessing the  
15 copying machine.

[0061]

According to the invention of claim 26, the  
information delivering method is configured such that the  
managing device applies the bar code to the delivery  
20 request upon receipt of the delivery request from the  
delivery client terminal, and discounts the copying  
charge by the copying machine possessed by the user upon  
receipt of the predetermined bar code information from  
the copying machine or the POS terminal of the delivery  
25 client and the identification information of the user

possessing the copying machine, thus producing the effect  
that there can be provided the information delivering  
method in which the bar code printed together with the  
delivery can be positively read, so as to enhance the  
5 delivery effect.

[0062]

The information delivering method according to  
claim 27, in the invention of claim 26, the managing  
device further performs a delivery effect managing step  
10 of managing the delivery effect of the delivery request  
based on the predetermined bar code information received  
from the copying machine or the POS terminal of the  
delivery client and the identification information of the  
user of the copying machine.

15 [0063]

According to the invention of claim 27, the  
information delivering method is configured such that the  
delivery effect of the delivery request is managed based  
on the predetermined bar code information received from  
20 the copying machine or the POS terminal of the delivery  
client and the identification information of the customer  
possessing the copying machine, thus producing the effect  
that there can be provided the information delivering  
method in which it is possible to efficiently grasp the  
25 delivery effect as to what delivery contents which the

customer is interested in.

[0064]

The information delivering method according to claim 28, in the invention of claims 16 to 27, the managing  
5 device further performs: a user attribute managing step of registering and managing user attributes of the delivery client received from the copying machine; and a registration notifying step of notifying the delivery client terminal that the user attributes are registered  
10 in the user attribute managing step.

[0065]

According to the invention of claim 28, the information delivering method is configured such that the user attributes of the delivery client received from the  
15 copying machine are registered and managed, and the delivery client terminal is notified that the user attributes are registered, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in which the information can be fed back from the copying  
20 machine to the delivery client.

[0066]

The information delivering method according to claim 29, in the invention of claims 16 to 28, the copying machine prints the delivery information at the margin of  
25 the printing sheet when a document is copied on the



printing sheet in the case where the copying machine receives the delivery information from the managing device.

[0067]

5           According to the invention of claim 29, the information delivering method is configured such that the delivery contents are printed at the margin of the printing sheet when the document is copied on the printing sheet in the case where the copying machine receives the  
10 delivery contents from the managing device, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in which the delivery effect can be obtained by directly delivering and printing the delivery contents at the lower margin or the  
15 like of the printing sheet.

[0068]

The information delivering method according to claim 30, in the invention of claims 16 to 29, the copying machine displays the delivery information on a console  
20 panel of the copying machine during a document copying operation in the case where the copying machine receives the delivery information from the managing device.

[0069]

          According to the invention of claim 30, the  
25 information delivering method is configured such that the

delivery contents are displayed on the console panel of the copying machine during the document copying operation in the case where the copying machine receives the delivery contents from the managing device, thus  
5 producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in which the customer possessing the operative copying machine can grasp the delivery contents in an inoperative time.

[0070]

10 According to the invention of claim 31, the program can become machine-readable by recording the program enabling the computer to execute the method according to any one of the sixteenth to thirtieth aspects, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the  
15 recording medium in which the operation according to any one of the sixteenth to thirtieth aspects can be implemented by the computer.

[0071]

[Embodiments of the Invention]

20 Embodiments of an information delivering system, an information delivering method and a computer-readable recording medium according to the present invention will be explained in detail while referring to the accompanying drawings. Incidentally, the present  
25 invention is applied to an information advertising system

in the embodiments.

[0072]

(First embodiment)

The configuration of an information advertising  
5 system according to a first embodiment will be explained.  
Fig. 1 is a diagram showing the configuration of the  
information advertising system in the first embodiment.  
The information advertising system shown in Fig. 1  
comprises advertisement client terminals 100a to 100c  
10 possessed by advertisement clients (hereinafter  
generally referred to as "an advertisement client  
terminal 100"), an advertisement managing device 110  
having an advertisement managing database 120, a customer  
managing device 130 having a customer managing database  
15 140, copying machines 150a to 150c possessed by customers  
(hereinafter generally referred to as "a copying machine  
150"), a charge managing device 160, and a sales  
department terminal 170 possessed by a sales department,  
in which all of these components are connected to each  
20 other over a public line network.

[0073]

The copying machine 150, the customer managing  
device 130, the charge managing device 160 and the sales  
department terminal 170 are the same as those in a  
25 conventional remote managing system. The customer

managing database 140 stores therein the installation position of each of the copying machines 150a to 150c, the location of a user who uses each of the copying machines, the type of component parts constituting each  
5 of the copying machines and the like in the same manner as conventional. The installation position of the copying machine and the location of the user are expressed by, for example, a municipal name, an address or the like, and the type of component parts constituting the copying  
10 machine signifies color correspondence or monochromatic correspondence in a printer unit or a scanner unit.

[0074]

The number of sheets copied by each of the copying machines 150a to 150c is notified to the customer managing  
15 device 130 from each of the copying machines 150a to 150c per predetermined period of time, and then, is managed by the customer managing database 140. Furthermore, a customer of each of the copying machines 150a to 150c is charged for a copying charge for the number of sheets via  
20 the charge managing device 160.

[0075]

If a failure occurs in any of the copying machines 150, the occurrence of a failure is automatically alarmed to the customer managing device 130 over the public line  
25 network. At this time, the customer managing device 130

tries to overcome the failure by a remote control.

Unless the customer managing device 130 can overcome the failure by the remote control, the sales department terminal 170 is notified of the impossibility of the remote control together with the installation position of the copying machine 150, and then, instructs a service person to visit the customer.

[0076]

The information advertising system herein is not the conventional remote managing system per se, but is configured to have the improved functions of the component parts in the conventional remote managing system and be additionally provided with the advertisement client terminal 100 and the advertisement managing device 110.

[0077]

The advertisement client terminal 100 is a terminal device possessed by the advertisement client who requests that an advertisement should be published in the copying machine 150. Specifically, the advertisement client requests the advertisement managing device 110 for an advertisement or estimation via the advertisement client terminal 100.

[0078]

The advertisement managing device 110 is a device

for receiving a request for an advertisement or estimation from each of the advertisement client terminals 100. Specifically, upon receipt of the request for estimation from the advertisement client terminal 100a, the advertisement managing device 110 approximates an advertisement charge required for the advertisement, and then, returns the estimation result including the advertisement charge to the advertisement client terminal 100a. Such estimation can offer an efficient advertisement within a budget which the advertisement client expects, and further restrict an advertisement area according to the advertisement result, or change color printing of the advertisement to monochromatic printing. Moreover, upon receipt of the request for an advertisement from the advertisement client terminal 100a, the advertisement managing device 110 registers the advertisement request in the advertisement managing database 120 and transfers it to the customer managing device 130.

20 [0079]

The customer managing device 130 creates advertisement data for each of the copying machines (i.e., for each of the customers) based on the advertisement request received from the advertisement managing device 110 and stores the advertisement data in the customer

managing database 140, and then, delivers the advertisement data to each of the copying machines 150. Specifically, when a regional name such as "A Town" is designated as a delivery area of the advertisement request when the customer managing device 130 creates the advertisement data, the copying machine 150 installed within the delivery area or the copying machine 150 whose customer is located within the delivery area is retrieved from the customer managing database 140, and thus, the retrieved copying machine 150 is specified as a copying machine to which the advertisement data is to be delivered.

[0080]

When the output color of the advertisement is designated by a message of, for example, "print in red", the copying machine 150 capable of printing in red is retrieved from the customer managing database 140, and thus, the retrieved copying machine 150 is specified as a copying machine to which the advertisement data is to be delivered. Furthermore, in the case where the delivery area and the output color are designated by the messages of "A Town" and "print in red", respectively, the copying machine 150 which can fulfill both of the conditions is retrieved from the customer managing database 140, and thus, the retrieved copying machine 150 is specified as a copying machine to which the

advertisement data is to be delivered.

[0081]

After the copying machine 150 to which the advertisement data is to be delivered is specified for each of the advertisement requests, the advertisement requests are collated for each of the copying machines 150, and then, the advertisement data for each of the copying machines 150 is created.

[0082]

Upon receipt of the estimation request in the advertisement managing device 110, the customer managing device 130 calculates and estimates the charge of the advertisement by using the installation position of each of the copying machines 150, the location of the customer of the copying machine 150, the type of component parts constituting the copying machine 150 and the like, which all are stored in the customer managing database 140.

[0083]

In forming an image of a document read by the scanner section on a printing sheet, the copying machine 150 prints also the advertisement data received from the customer managing device 130 at the margin or the like of the printing sheet. Moreover, the advertisement data received from the customer managing device 130 during a copying operation can also be displayed on a console panel.



[0084]

The charge managing device 160 is a managing device for managing a copying charge for the number of sheets copied by each of the customers by the use of the copying machine 150 and the advertisement charge required for the advertisement requested by the advertisement client, so as to notify the sales department terminal 170 of the charge to the customer of each of the copying machines 150 or the advertisement client. That is to say, although the customer is charged for the copying charge in the conventional charge managing device 160, not only the advertisement charge but also the copying charge can be charged in the present system.

[0085]

The sales department terminal 170 is a terminal device possessed by the sales department, and sends a service person to the customer in the case where a trouble occurs in the copying machine 150. Moreover, a service person may visit the customer or the advertisement client to collect the copying charge or the advertisement charge received from the charge managing device 160.

[0086]

Next, a specific explanation will be made on the configuration of the advertisement managing device 110 shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 2 is a functional block diagram

showing the configuration of the advertisement managing device 110 shown in Fig. 1. As shown in Fig. 2, the advertisement managing device 110 comprises an interface 111, a section for acquiring the number of persons  
5 receiving an advertisement 112, an estimation processor 113, a registration processor 114, a transfer processor 115 and a controller 116.

[0087]

The interface 111 is an interface for transmitting  
10 or receiving data between the advertisement client terminal 100 and the customer managing device 130 over the public line network. The section for acquiring the number of persons receiving an advertisement 112 is a processor for acquiring the number of persons receiving  
15 an advertisement corresponding to the estimation request from the customer managing device 130 upon receipt of the estimation request from the advertisement client terminal 100.

[0088]

20 The estimation processor 113 is a processor for making the estimation result including the approximation of the advertisement charge based on the advertisement condition included in the estimation request received from the advertisement client terminal 100 and the number  
25 of persons receiving an advertisement acquired from the

customer managing device 130, and then, returns the estimation result to the advertisement client terminal 100 possessed by the client.

[0089]

5           The registration processor 114 is a processor for registering the advertisement request in the advertisement managing database 120 upon receipt of the advertisement request from the advertisement client terminal 100. The transfer processor 115 is a processor  
10 for transferring the advertisement request to the customer managing device 130 upon receipt of the advertisement request from the advertisement client terminal 100, and the controller 116 is a controller for controlling the entire advertisement managing device 110.

15           [0090]

Subsequently, explanation will be made on the configuration of the customer managing device 130 shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a functional block diagram showing the configuration of the customer managing device 130  
20 shown in Fig. 1. The customer managing device 130 shown in Fig. 3 is a device based on a managing device which has been conventionally provided for managing each of the copying machines 150 by the use of the managing database, which is used here as the customer managing database 140.

25           [0091]

As shown in Fig. 3, the customer managing device 130 comprises an interface 131, a customer information manager 132, a section for selecting persons receiving an advertisement 133, an advertisement transferor 134, a section for generating an advertisement for each of customers 135, an advertisement data processor 136 and a controller 137.

[0092]

The interface 131 is an interface for transmitting or receiving data among the advertisement managing device 110, the copying machines 150, the charge managing device 160 and the sales department terminal 170 over the public line network.

[0093]

The customer information manager 132 is a manager for managing information on each of the copying machines 150 by the use of the customer managing database 140. Specifically, the customer information manager 132 stores constituent information on the installation position of each of the copying machines 150, the location of the customer who uses each of the copying machines 150, the type of component parts constituting each of the copying machines or the like in the customer managing database 140, and then, manages the constituent information. Furthermore, the customer information

manager 132 stores setting information indicating whether or not each of the copying machines 150 copies the advertisement or advertisement data on each of the copying machines 150 in the customer managing database  
5 140, and then, manages the setting information or the advertisement data. The customer information manager 132 includes, for example, information on whether the copying machine 150 has a monochromatic printer or a color printer as the constituent information.

10 [0094]

The section for selecting the number of persons receiving the advertisement 133 is a processor for selecting the copying machine of a person receiving the advertisement, who is adapted to the advertisement  
15 request, upon receipt of the advertisement request including the advertisement condition such as the area to which the advertisement is directed or the type of advertisement. Specifically, the section for selecting the persons receiving the advertisement 133 selects the  
20 copying machine 150 to which the advertisement is directed based on whether or not the advertisement is copied by each of the copying machines 150 managed by the customer information manager 132, the constituent information on each of the copying machines 150, the  
25 installation position of each of the copying machines 150,

the location of the customer or the like. Moreover, upon receipt of the estimation request from the advertisement client terminal 100, the advertisement managing device 110 specifies the persons receiving the advertisement as  
5 a support for the estimation in the same procedures as those in the case of the advertisement request, and then, returns the number of persons receiving the advertisement to the advertisement managing device 110.

[0095]

10 The section for generating the advertisement for each of the customers 135 is a processor for generating the advertisement data indicating the advertisement for each of the customers, i.e., for each of the copying machines upon receipt of the advertisement request from  
15 a plurality of advertisement clients via the advertisement managing device 110. The advertisement transferor 134 is a processor for transferring the advertisement data generated by the section for generating the advertisement for each of the customers  
20 135 to each of the copying machines 150.

[0096]

The advertisement data processor 136 is a processor for performing the processing relating to the advertisement data. Specifically, upon receipt of data  
25 on the number of sheets of the advertisement to be copied

from each of the copying machines 150, the advertisement data processor 136 notifies the charge managing device 160 of the number of sheets of the advertisement to be copied. The controller 137 is a controller for  
5 performing the entire control of the customer managing device 130.

[0097]

Next, explanation will be made on one example of the advertisement request by the advertisement client  
10 terminal 100 shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 4A and Fig. 4B show one example of the advertisement request via the advertisement client terminal 100 shown in Fig. 1. As shown in Fig. 4A, advertisement request data 400 includes items such as a request number, an advertisement client,  
15 an advertisement, a destination, an advertisement type, an advertisement range, the maximum number of sheets per user, the total maximum number of sheets and contract.

[0098]

In the above explanation, the advertisement type  
20 signifies the printing condition such as "print in red" or "print in black", and the advertisement range designates a region such as "users located within a radius of r km around X" or "Naka-magome, Ohta-ku, Tokyo".

[0099]

25 If the advertisement range of "users located within

a radius of  $r$  km around  $X$ " is designated, the advertisement data is delivered to only the copying machines located within the radius around a certain point, as shown in Fig. 4B. Specifically, since the  
5 installation position of each of the copying machines 150 and the location of the customer who uses each of the copying machines 150 are stored in the customer managing database 140, as explained already, the copying machines 150 installed within the radius of  $r$  km around the certain  
10 point or the copying machines 150 possessed by the customers located within the range are compared with the advertisement range, thus specifying the copying machines to which the advertisement is to be directed. For example a distance between the center point and each  
15 copying machine is obtained, and a determination is made about whether or not the distance is within the radius  $r$  km, so that the copying machine belonging to the advertisement range can easily be specified.

[0100]

20 Moreover, since the constituent information on each of the copying machines 150 is stored per copying machine in the customer managing database 140, the copying machine 150 having a printer capable of color printing is compared with the contents of the customer managing  
25 database 140 in specifying the copying machine adaptable



to the printing condition such as "print in red", thus specifying the copying machine 150 to which the advertisement is to be directed.

[0101]

5           Subsequently, explanation will be made below on the processing sequence when the advertisement managing device 110 and the customer managing device 130, both of which are shown in Fig. 1, receive the estimation request. Fig. 5 is a flowchart showing the processing sequence when  
10   the advertisement managing device 110 and the customer managing device 130, shown in Fig. 1, receive the estimation request.

[0102]

As shown in Fig. 5, when the advertisement managing  
15   device 110 receives the estimation request from the advertisement client (step S501), it makes a request for the number of persons receiving the advertisement to the customer managing device 130 (step S502).

[0103]

20           When the customer managing device 130 receives the request (step S503), it calculates the number of persons receiving the advertisement based on the advertisement range, the advertisement type or the like (step S504), and then, transmits the calculated number of persons  
25   receiving the advertisement to the advertisement

managing device 110 (step S505).

[0104]

When the advertisement managing device 110 receives the number of persons receiving the advertisement (step 5 S506), it approximates the advertisement charge based on the number of persons receiving the advertisement, the maximum number of sheets per user, a copying charge of the advertisement per sheet or the like (step S507), and then, transmits the estimation result including the 10 approximated advertisement charge to the advertisement client (step S508).

[0105]

Subsequently, explanation will be made below on the processing sequence when the advertisement managing 15 device 110 and the customer managing device 130, both of which are shown in Fig. 1, receive the advertisement request. Fig. 6 is a flowchart showing the processing sequence when the advertisement managing device 110 and the customer managing device 130, both of which are shown 20 in Fig. 1, receive the advertisement request.

[0106]

As shown in Fig. 6, when the advertisement managing device 110 receives the advertisement request (step S601), it stores the advertisement in the advertisement managing 25 database 120 (step S602), and then, transfers the

advertisement to the customer managing device 130 (step S603).

[0107]

When the customer managing device 130 receives the  
5 advertisement (step S604), it specifies the persons  
receiving the advertisement in the same manner as the case  
of the estimation request (step S605), and then, creates  
the advertisement data for each of the customers (step  
S606). After the customer managing device 130 stores the  
10 advertisement data in the customer managing database 140  
(step S607), it delivers the advertisement data to each  
of the customers, i.e., each of the copying machines 150  
(step S608).

[0108]

15 Thereafter, when the advertisement managing device  
110 receives the notification of delivery completion  
given by the customer managing device 130 (steps S609 and  
S610), it notifies the corresponding advertisement  
client terminal 100 of the delivery completion (step  
20 S611).

[0109]

Fig. 7 shows the concept of creation of the  
advertisement data for each of the customers in step S606  
of Fig. 6. As shown in Fig. 7, with respect to  
25 advertisement requests A, B and C registered in the

advertisement managing device 110, the customer managing device 130 creates the advertisement data for each of the customers based on the advertisement and the customer information.

5           [0110]

For example, in the case where the copying machines of both of a customer 1 and a customer 2 are present within an advertisement area designated by the advertisement request A, the copying machines of both of the customer  
10 2 and a customer 3 are present within an advertisement area designated by the advertisement request B and the copying machines of all of the customers 2 and 3 and a customer 4 are present within an advertisement area designated by the advertisement request C, only the  
15 advertisement request A is included in the advertisement data in the copying machine of the customer 1, the advertisement requests A, B and C are included in the advertisement data in the copying machine of the customer 2, and the advertisement requests B and C are included  
20 in the advertisement data in the copying machine of the customer 3, and only the advertisement request C is included in the advertisement data in the copying machine of the customer 4.

[0111]

25           In this manner, the advertisement data is created

for each of the customers (i.e., for each of the copying machines). Although the explanation has been made on the case where only the advertisement area is considered for the sake of convenience, a similar process is performed  
5 under other additional advertisement conditions.

[0112]

Next, a description will be given of the processing sequence of the copying machine 150 shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 8 is a flowchart showing the processing sequence of the  
10 copying machine 150 shown in Fig. 1. Here, the copying machine 150 permits the advertisement to be copied.

[0113]

As shown in Fig. 8, when the copying machine 150 reads the document to be copied by a scanner unit (step  
15 S801), it reduces image data (step S802), adds the advertisement data received from the customer managing device 130 to a margin so as to synthesize the image data (step S803), and then, prints the synthesized image (step S804).

20 [0114]

Fig. 9 shows one example of a printout printed by the copying machine 150 shown in Fig. 1. As shown in Fig. 9, an advertisement sentence 910 is printed at the lower and right margins of a main copy image 900.

25 [0115]

The advertisement sentence 910 need not always be printed at the showed margins, but it may be printed at only a lower margin, only a right margin or only a left margin. Furthermore, the advertisement sentence 910 may  
5 be printed in color.

[0116]

As described above, the information advertising system in the first embodiment is configured such that when the advertisement managing device 110 receives the  
10 advertisement request from the advertisement client terminal 100, the customer managing device 130 specifies the copying machines 150 adapted to the advertisement request, and then, the requested advertisement is transmitted to the specified copying machines 150.  
15 Consequently, it is possible to speedily offer, to the customer, the advertisement fulfilling the needs of the advertisement client with high efficiency by using the system used for remotely controlling the copying machine 150.

20 [0117]

Incidentally, the first embodiment exemplifies the case where the copying machine 150 manages only the number of sheets to be copied, transmits the number of sheets to be copied to the customer managing device 130 on a  
25 closing day, and thus, the customer managing device 130

transfers the number of sheets to be copied to the charge managing device 160. However, points may be managed in place of the number of sheets to be copied.

[0118]

5           Fig. 10 shows an example in which the result of the copied advertisement by the use of points in the copying machine 150 shown in Fig. 1. As shown in Fig. 10, there are many cases where used sheets are used, new sheets are used or sheets are stapled when the copying machine 150  
10       prints. The advertisement effect is different in each of the cases. The advertisement effect in the case where the advertisement is printed on a cover page is more remarkable than that in the case where the advertisement is printed on a page other than the cover page.

15           [0119]

          Therefore, the information advertising system may be configured such that points are added as follows, 1 point in the case of copying on a used sheet, 2 points in the case of copying on a new sheet, 2 points in the  
20       case of copying on a cover page, 0.5 point in the case of copying on a page other than a cover page and 1 point in the case of stapling, and the copying machine 150 sums up the points.

[0120]

25           In this case, the copying machine 150 transmits the

cumulative points to the customer managing device 130 on a closing day, so that the customer managing device 130 transfers the cumulative points to the charge managing device 160, and thus, charges the charge for the  
5 advertisement or the copy to the advertisement client or the customer based on the cumulative points.

[0121]

(Second embodiment)

In the first embodiment, only the requested  
10 advertisement is output onto the coping machine 150 at the time of the advertisement request from the advertisement client terminal 100. It is needless to say, that a bar code can be output together with the advertisement. A second embodiment according to the  
15 present invention exemplifies the case in which a bar code is output together with the requested advertisement.

[0122]

Fig. 11 is a diagram showing the configuration of an information advertising system in the second  
20 embodiment, Fig. 12 is a block diagram showing the configuration of an advertisement managing device 1110 shown in Fig. 11, and Fig. 13 is a block diagram showing the configuration of a customer managing device 1120 shown in Fig. 11. Here, constituents having the same  
25 functions as those of the constituents shown in Fig. 1



to Fig. 3 are designated by the same reference numerals, and therefore, their detailed descriptions will be omitted below.

[0123]

5       As shown in Fig. 11, this information advertising system is configured in the same manner as that shown in Fig. 1, with the exception that the advertisement managing device 1110, the customer managing device 1120 and a copying machine 1130 are additionally equipped with  
10 a function relating to a bar code and the information advertising system is provided with a POS terminal 1140 for reading the bar code.

[0124]

As shown in Fig. 12, the advertisement managing  
15 device 1110 includes a bar code number allocator 1111 for allocating a bar code number to an advertisement request upon receipt of the advertisement request from an advertisement client terminal 100. A bar code number allocated by the bar code number allocator 1111 is stored  
20 in an advertisement managing database 12 together with the advertisement request, and further, is transmitted to the customer managing device 1120.

[0125]

As shown in Fig. 13, the customer managing device  
25 1120 includes a bar code processor 1121 for performing

the processing relating to the bar code. The customer managing device 1120 delivers the bar code number to the copying machine 1130 together with advertisement data upon receipt of the bar code number from the advertisement  
5 managing device 1110. The bar code processor 1121 gives the notification of a special discount to a charge managing device 16 based on a read bar code number upon receipt of the read bar code number from the copying machine 1130.

10 [0126]

The copying machine 1130 prints a bar code pattern corresponding to the bar code number on a printing sheet together with the advertisement upon receipt of the bar code number from the customer managing device 1120.

15 [0127]

Fig. 14 shows one example in which the bar code is printed together with the advertisement requested to be advertised. As shown in Fig. 14, a part of an advertisement sentence printed at the lower margin of a  
20 main copy image is a bar code pattern 1400. A margin at which the bar code pattern 1400 is printed is not limited to the lower margin, but it may be whatever margin of the advertisement sentence.

[0128]

25 Fig. 15 is a diagram showing a processor for

performing the processing associated with the bar code,  
included in the copying machine 1130. As shown in Fig.  
15, in the copying machine 1130, image data on a document  
is read by a scanner 1501, and then, is held in an image  
5 device 1504, the bar code pattern 1400 is written by a  
bar code writer 1505, and thus, an image formed by  
synthesizing the image data with the bar code pattern is  
written in a printing sheet 1507 by a writer 1506.

[0129]

10       Thereafter, when the data on the bar code is  
transmitted from the copying machine 1130 to the customer  
managing device 1120, the scanner 1501 reads the printing  
sheet 1507, a bar code region determiner 1502 determines  
the region of the bar code, and a bar code reader 1503  
15 reads the bar code from the region, to thus transmit the  
read bar code to the customer managing device 1120.

[0130]

In this manner, the use of the bar code enables the  
read bar code number to be transmitted from not only the  
20 copying machine 1130 but also the POS terminal 1140  
disposed in a shop possessed by the advertisement client.

[0131]

This signifies that the advertisement can directly  
produce an effect since the customer having the printing  
25 sheet of the advertisement makes a trip to the shop.

Therefore, the direct effect produced by the advertisement can be grasped by managing the read bar code number from the POS terminal 1140.

[0132]

5           As described above, the information advertising system in the second embodiment is configured such that the advertisement managing device 1110 allocates the bar code number to the advertisement request upon receipt of the advertisement request from the advertisement client  
10 terminal 100, and then, transmits the bar code number to the customer managing device 1120, the customer managing device 1120 delivers the bar code number to the copying machine 1130 together with the advertisement data, the bar code processor 1121 gives the notification of a  
15 special discount to the charge managing device 16 based on the read bar code number upon receipt of the read bar code number from the copying machine 1130. Consequently, the effect of the advertisement can be enhanced by the use of the bar code.

20           [0133]

(Third embodiment)

Although the first and second embodiments have exemplified the case in which the information is transmitted from the advertisement client to the copying  
25 machine in a one-way fashion, the information can be fed

back from the copying machine to the advertisement client.  
In this embodiment, a description will be given of an  
example in which the information is fed back from the  
copying machine to the advertisement client.

5 [0134]

Fig. 16 is a diagram showing the configuration of  
an information advertising system in a third embodiment,  
Fig. 17 is a block diagram showing the configuration of  
an advertisement managing device 1600 shown in Fig. 16,  
10 and Fig. 18 is a block diagram showing the configuration  
of a customer managing device 1610 shown in Fig. 16.  
Constituents having the same functions as those of the  
constituents shown in Fig. 1 to Fig. 3 are designated by  
the same reference numerals, and therefore, their  
15 detailed descriptions will be omitted below.

[0135]

As shown in Fig. 16, user information inclusive of  
user needs such as attributes of an advertisement desired  
to be published is transmitted from a copying machine 1620  
20 to the advertisement managing device 1600 via the  
customer managing device 1610. The advertisement  
managing device 1600 collects the user information from  
each of copying machines 1620, compares the user  
information with advertisement attributes of an  
25 advertisement client held therein, and then, notifies

user attributes to a terminal of an advertisement client having the matched attributes. Consequently, each of the advertisement clients can efficiently judge as to what advertisement is desired by what customer, and thus, publishes an advertisement which can fulfill a request from a customer.

[0136]

Specifically, as shown in Fig. 17, the advertisement managing device 1600 includes a user attribute storage 1601 for storing the user attributes therein and a user attribute manager 1601 for managing the user attributes stored in the user attribute storage 1602, and further, the user information storage 1602 stores therein the user information transmitted from each of the copying machines 1620. The user attribute manager 1601 compares the user attributes with the advertisement attributes of the advertisement client held therein, and then, notifies the user attributes to the terminal of the advertisement client having the matched attributes.

[0137]

Moreover, as shown in Fig. 18, the customer managing device 1610 includes a user attribute notifier 1611, which acquires the user attributes inclusive of the user needs for an advertisement desired by the user from the copying machine 1620, and then, notifies the user

attributes to the advertisement managing device 1600.

[0138]

As described above, the information advertising system in the third embodiment is configured such that the user attributes inclusive of the user needs for the advertisement desired by the user is notified to the advertisement managing device 1600 from the copying machine 1620 via the customer managing device 1610, and further, the advertisement managing device 1600 compares the user attributes with the attributes of the advertisement client so as to notify it to a suitable advertisement client. Consequently, the customer can get his or her desired advertisement.

[0139]

15 (Forth embodiment)

Although the copying charge and the advertisement charge managed by the charge managing device 160 are collected by the service person via the sales department terminal 170 in the above-described first to third embodiments, the charges can be charged via a card company.

[0140]

In a fourth embodiment, as shown in Fig. 19, a server 1900 of a card company is connected to a charge managing device 160 via a public line network, and thus, the copying charge and the advertisement charge can be

charged via the card company.

[0141]

Consequently, the card company collects the charges from an advertisement client and a customer in the fourth  
5 embodiment, thereby achieving the smooth and efficient collection of the charges.

[0142]

(Fifth embodiment)

It has been described in the first to fourth  
10 embodiments that the advertisement requested to be advertised by the advertisement client is printed on the printing sheet. However, the present invention is not limited only to this case. That is, the advertisement can be displayed on a console panel of a copying machine.

15 [0143]

Fig. 20 and Fig. 21 show an example in which an advertisement requested to be advertised by an advertisement client is displayed on a console panel of a copying machine. As shown in Fig. 20, an advertisement  
20 area 2000 is disposed at a part of an operation information region 2010 in the copying machine, so as to display the advertisement requested to be advertised all the time.

[0144]

25 Furthermore, as shown in Fig. 21, the advertisement



requested to be advertised may be displayed on the entire console panel when the copying machine starts a copying operation. The number of sheets being copied is displayed on a section of the printing number 2110 of  
5 sheets shown in Fig. 21. When a button of printing 2120 is operated to be instructed, the advertisement is printed. Moreover, when a button of tray selection 2130 is operated to be instructed, a sheet ray can be changed even during the printing operation.

10 [0145]

As described above, the information advertising system in the fifth embodiment is configured such that the advertisement is displayed on the console panel in the copying machine during the printing operation by the  
15 copying machine upon receipt of the advertisement request from the advertisement client, thereby allowing the customer to confirm the advertisement even unless the advertisement is printed on the printing sheet.

[0146]

20 Although the above-described first to fifth embodiments exemplify the case in which the advertisement managing device and the customer managing device are provided independently of each other, the present invention is not limited to the above-described  
25 embodiments, and therefore, both of the managing devices

may be integrated with each other. Additionally, the advertisement managing device, the customer managing device and the charge managing device may be integrated into a single managing device.

5 [0147]

[Effects due to the Invention]

As described above, according to the invention of claim 1, the information delivering system is configured such that the delivery request for the delivery  
10 information is received from the delivery client terminal to be operated by the delivery client requesting for the information, the copying machine adapted to the received delivery request is specified based on the management information accumulated in the managing database, and the  
15 delivery information requested to be delivered is transmitted to the specified copying machine, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering system in which the delivery fulfilling the needs of the delivery client can be  
20 speedily offered to the customer with high efficiency by using the system used for remotely managing the copying machine.

[0148]

According to the invention of claim 2, the  
25 information delivering system is configured such that the

delivery request including the delivery area, to which  
at least the delivery contents are delivered, is received,  
and the copying machine, to which the delivery  
information is to be transmitted, is specified based on  
5 whether or not the installation position of each of the  
copying machines or the location of the user who uses the  
copying machine accumulated in the managing database  
ranges within the delivery area of the delivery request,  
thus producing the effect that there can be provided the  
10 information delivering system in which the copying  
machine within the delivery area of the delivery intended  
to be requested by the delivery client can be efficiently  
specified.

[0149]

15 According to the invention of claim 3, the  
information delivering system is configured such that the  
delivery request including the output type indicating  
whether at least the delivery contents are output in color  
or monochrome is received, and the output type included  
20 in the delivery request is compared with the type of  
component parts constituting each of the copying machines  
accumulated in the managing database, so that the copying  
machine, to which the delivery information is to be  
transmitted, is specified, thus producing the effect that  
25 there can be provided the information delivering system

in which the copying machine constituted adaptively to the delivery request, for example, a color copying machine in the case of printing in red, can be efficiently specified.

5           [0150]

According to the invention of claim 4, the information delivering system is configured such that the delivery information to be delivered to each of the copying machines is collected per copying machine so as  
10 to generate the delivery information for each of the copying machines upon receipt of the delivery request from the plurality of delivery client terminals, and the generated delivery information is transmitted to each of the copying machines, thus producing the effect that  
15 there can be provided the information delivering system in which the delivery contents for each of the copying machines can be efficiently transmitted to each of the copying machines even upon receipt of numerous delivery requests having limited conditions.

20           [0151]

According to the invention of claim 5, the information delivering system is configured such that the generated delivery information for each of the copying machines is stored, thus producing the effect that there  
25 can be provided the information delivering system in

which the delivery request can be speedily sent again even in the case where the delivery contents may be accidentally lost in each of the copying machines.

[0152]

5           According to the invention of claim 6, the information delivering system is configured such that the managing device receives the delivery estimation request from the delivery client terminal, acquires the number of copying machines adapted to the estimation request  
10 based on the management information accumulated in the managing database, approximates the charge for the information delivery based on the acquired number of copying machines, and returns the estimation result including the charge for the approximated information  
15 delivery to the delivery client terminal, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering system in which the delivery charge can be previously estimated in the case where the delivery charge is collected based on the number of copying sheets  
20 including the delivery.

[0153]

          According to the invention of claim 7, the information delivering system is configured such that the managing device receives the delivery request for the  
25 delivery information from the delivery client terminal

operated by the delivery client requesting for the information, specifies the copying machine adapted to the received delivery request based on the management information accumulated in the managing database,  
5 transmits the delivery information requested to be delivered to the specified copying machine, calculates the delivery charge charged to the delivery client, and charges the calculated delivery charge in addition to the copying charge based on the data relating to the number  
10 of copying sheets accumulated in the managing database, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering system in which the delivery charge can be efficiently charged by using the conventional system for charging the copying charge.

15 [0154]

According to the invention of claim 8, the information delivering system is configured such that the delivery charge is calculated based on the cumulative value of the points corresponding to the type or printing  
20 portion of the printing sheet, on which the delivery contents are printed by the copying machine, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering system in which the proper delivery charge can be calculated based on the delivery  
25 effect such that the point is low in the case where the

used sheets are used, the point is high in the case where the new sheets are used, the point is high in the case where the printing is performed on the cover page and the point is low in the case where the printing is performed  
5 on a page other than the cover page.

[0155]

According to the invention of claim 9, the information delivering system is configured such that the copying charge is discounted in response to the number  
10 of output times including the delivery information by the copying machine, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering system in which an incentive for the delivery copying can be enhanced since the copying charge per se is reduced as the outputs  
15 inclusive of the delivery contents are increased in quantity.

[0156]

According to the invention of claim 10, the information delivering system is configured such that the  
20 copying charge and the delivery charge are transmitted to the server of the card company with which the user of the copying machine and the delivery client contract, and the card company charges the user of the copying machine and the delivery client for the copying charge and the  
25 delivery charge received from the managing device,

respectively, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering system in which the charges can be efficiently made by using so-called card payment.

5 [0157]

According to the invention of claim 11, the information delivering system is configured such that the managing device applies the bar code to the delivery request upon receipt of the delivery request from the delivery client terminal, and discounts the copying charge by the copying machine possessed by the user upon receipt of the predetermined bar code information from the copying machine or the POS terminal of the delivery client and the identification information of the user possessing the copying machine, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering system in which the bar code printed together with the delivery can be positively read, so as to enhance the delivery effect.

20 [0158]

According to the invention of claim 12, the information delivering system is configured such that the delivery effect of the delivery request is managed based on the predetermined bar code information received from the copying machine or the POS terminal of the delivery



client and the identification information of the customer  
possessing the copying machine, thus producing the effect  
that there can be provided the information delivering  
system in which it is possible to efficiently grasp the  
5 delivery effect as to what delivery contents which the  
customer is interested in.

[0159]

According to the invention of claim 13, the  
information delivering system is configured such that the  
10 user attributes of the delivery client received from the  
copying machine are registered and managed, and the  
delivery client terminal is notified that the user  
attributes are registered, thus producing the effect that  
there can be provided the information delivering system  
15 in which the information can be fed back from the copying  
machine to the delivery client.

[0160]

According to the invention of claim 14, the  
information delivering system is configured such that the  
20 delivery contents are printed at the margin of the  
printing sheet when the document is copied on the printing  
sheet in the case where the copying machine receives the  
delivery contents from the managing device, thus  
producing the effect that there can be provided the  
25 information delivering system in which the delivery

effect can be obtained by directly delivering and printing the delivery contents at the lower margin or the like of the printing sheet.

[0161]

5           According to the invention of claim 15, the information delivering system is configured such that the delivery contents are displayed on the console panel of the copying machine during the document copying operation in the case where the copying machine receives the  
10 delivery contents from the managing device, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering system in which the customer possessing the operative copying machine can grasp the delivery contents in an inoperative time.

15           [0162]

          According to the invention of claim 16, the information delivering method is configured such that the delivery request for the delivery information is received from the delivery client terminal to be operated by the  
20 delivery client requesting for the information, the copying machine adapted to the received delivery request is specified based on the management information accumulated in the managing database, and the delivery information requested to be delivered is transmitted to  
25 the specified copying machine, thus producing the effect

that there can be provided the information delivering method in which the delivery fulfilling the needs of the delivery client can be speedily offered to the customer with high efficiency by using the system used for remotely  
5 managing the copying machine.

[0163]

According to the invention of claim 17, the information delivering method is configured such that the delivery request including the delivery area, to which  
10 at least the delivery contents are delivered, is received, and the copying machine, to which the delivery information is to be transmitted, is specified based on whether or not the installation position of each of the copying machines or the location of the user who uses the  
15 copying machine accumulated in the managing database ranges within the delivery area of the delivery request, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in which the copying machine within the delivery area of the delivery intended  
20 to be requested by the delivery client can be efficiently specified.

[0164]

According to the invention of claim 18, the information delivering method is configured such that the  
25 delivery request including the output type indicating

whether at least the delivery contents are output in color or monochrome is received, and the output type included in the delivery request is compared with the type of component parts constituting each of the copying machines  
5 accumulated in the managing database so that the copying machine, to which the delivery information is to be transmitted, is specified, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in which the copying machine constituted adaptively to  
10 the delivery request, for example, a color copying machine in the case of printing in red, can be efficiently specified.

[0165]

According to the invention of claim 19, the  
15 information delivering method is configured such that the delivery information to be delivered to each of the copying machines is collected per copying machine so as to generate the delivery information for each of the copying machines upon receipt of the delivery request  
20 from the plurality of delivery client terminals, and the generated delivery information is transmitted to each of the copying machines, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in which the delivery contents for each of the copying  
25 machines can be efficiently transmitted to each of the

copying machines even upon receipt of numerous delivery requests having limited conditions.

[0166]

According to the invention of claim 20, the  
5 information delivering method is configured such that the generated delivery information for each of the copying machines is stored, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in which the delivery request contents can be speedily sent  
10 again even in the case where the delivery request contents may be accidentally lost in each of the copying machines.

[0167]

According to the invention of claim 21, the  
information delivering method is configured such that the  
15 managing device receives the delivery estimation request from the delivery client terminal, acquires the number of copying machines adapted to the estimation request based on the management information accumulated in the managing database, approximates the charge for the  
20 information delivery based on the acquired number of copying machines, and returns the estimation result including the charge for the approximated information delivery to the delivery client terminal, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information  
25 delivering method in which the delivery charge can be

previously estimated in the case where the delivery charge is collected based on the number of copying sheets including the delivery.

[0168]

5           According to the invention of claim 22, the information delivering method is configured such that the managing device receives the delivery request for the delivery information from the delivery client terminal operated by the delivery client requesting for the  
10 information, specifies the copying machine adapted to the received delivery request based on the management information accumulated in the managing database, transmits the delivery information requested to be delivered to the specified copying machine, calculates  
15 the delivery charge charged to the delivery client, and charges the calculated delivery charge in addition to the copying charge based on the data relating to the number of copying sheets accumulated in the managing database, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the  
20 information delivering method in which the delivery charge can be efficiently charged by using the conventional system for charging the copying charge.

[0169]

          According to the invention of claim 23, the  
25 information delivering method is configured such that the

delivery charge is calculated based on the cumulative value of the points corresponding to the type or printing portion of the printing sheet, on which the delivery contents are printed by the copying machine, thus  
5 producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in which the proper delivery charge can be calculated based on the delivery effect such that the point is low in the case where the used sheets are used, the point is high in the case where  
10 the new sheets are used, the point is high in the case where the printing is performed on the cover page and the point is low in the case where the printing is performed on a page other than the cover page.

[0170]

15 According to the invention of claim 24, the information delivering method is configured such that the copying charge is discounted in response to the number of output times including the delivery information by the copying machine, thus producing the effect that there can  
20 be provided the information delivering method in which an incentive for the delivery copying can be enhanced since the copying charge per se is reduced as the outputs inclusive of the delivery contents are increased in quantity.

25 [0171]

According to the invention of claim 25, the information delivering method is configured such that the copying charge and the delivery charge are transmitted to the server of the card company with which the user of the copying machine and the delivery client contract, and the card company charges the user of the copying machine and the delivery client for the copying charge and the delivery charge received from the managing device, respectively, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in which the charges can be efficiently made by using so-called card payment.

[0172]

According to the invention of claim 26, the information delivering method is configured such that the managing device applies the bar code to the delivery request upon receipt of the delivery request from the delivery client terminal, and discounts the copying charge by the copying machine possessed by the user upon receipt of the predetermined bar code information from the copying machine or the POS terminal of the delivery client and the identification information of the user possessing the copying machine, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in which the bar code printed together with the



delivery can be positively read, so as to enhance the delivery effect.

[0173]

According to the invention of claim 27, the  
5 information delivering method is configured such that the delivery effect of the delivery request is managed based on the predetermined bar code information received from the copying machine or the POS terminal of the delivery client and the identification information of the customer  
10 possessing the copying machine, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in which it is possible to efficiently grasp the delivery effect as to what delivery contents which the customer is interested in.

15 [0174]

According to the invention of claim 28, the information delivering method is configured such that the user attributes of the delivery client received from the copying machine are registered and managed, and the  
20 delivery client terminal is notified that the user attributes are registered, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in which the information can be fed back from the copying machine to the delivery client.

25 [0175]

According to the invention of claim 29, the information delivering method is configured such that the delivery contents are printed at the margin of the printing sheet when the document is copied on the printing sheet in the case where the copying machine receives the delivery contents from the managing device, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in which the delivery effect can be obtained by directly delivering and printing the delivery contents at the lower margin or the like of the printing sheet.

[0176]

According to the invention of claim 30, the information delivering method is configured such that the delivery contents are displayed on the console panel of the copying machine during the document copying operation in the case where the copying machine receives the delivery contents from the managing device, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the information delivering method in which the customer possessing the operative copying machine can grasp the delivery contents in an inoperative time.

[0177]

According to the invention of claim 31, the program can become machine-readable by recording the program

enabling the computer to execute the method according to any one of the sixteenth to thirtieth aspects, thus producing the effect that there can be provided the recording medium in which the operation according to any  
5 one of the sixteenth to thirtieth aspects can be implemented by the computer.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Fig. 1]

Fig. 1 is a diagram showing the configuration of an  
10 information advertising system in a first embodiment according to the present invention.

[Fig. 2]

Fig. 2 is a functional block diagram showing the configuration of an advertisement managing device shown  
15 in Fig. 1.

[Fig. 3]

Fig. 3 is a functional block diagram showing the configuration of a customer managing device shown in Fig.  
1.

20 [Fig. 4]

Fig. 4A and Fig. 4B show one example of an advertisement request made by an advertisement client terminal shown in Fig. 1.

[Fig. 5]

25 Fig. 5 is a flowchart showing the processing

sequence when the advertisement managing device and the customer managing device, both of which are shown in Fig. 1, receive an estimation request.

[Fig. 6]

5        Fig. 6 is a flowchart showing the processing sequence when the advertisement managing device and the customer managing device, both of which are shown in Fig. 1, receive an advertisement request.

[Fig. 7]

10       Fig. 7 shows the concept of creation of advertisement data for each of customers in step S606 of Fig. 6.

[Fig. 8]

15       Fig. 8 is a flowchart showing the processing sequence by a copying machine shown in Fig. 1.

[Fig. 9]

Fig. 9 shows one example of a printout printed by the copying machine shown in Fig. 1.

[Fig. 10]

20       Fig. 10 shows an example in which the copying result of the advertisement is managed by the use of points in the copying machine shown in Fig. 1.

[Fig. 11]

25       Fig. 11 is a diagram showing the configuration of an information advertising system in a second embodiment.

[Fig. 12]

Fig. 12 is a block diagram showing the configuration of an advertisement managing device shown in Fig. 11.

[Fig. 13]

5 Fig. 13 is a block diagram showing the configuration of a customer managing device shown in Fig. 11.

[Fig. 14]

Fig. 14 shows one example in which a bar code is printed together with an advertisement requested to be  
10 advertised.

[Fig. 15]

Fig. 15 is a diagram showing a processor for performing the processing associated with the bar code, included in a copying machine.

15 [Fig. 16]

Fig. 16 is a diagram showing the configuration of an information advertising system in a third embodiment.

[Fig. 17]

Fig. 17 is a block diagram showing the configuration  
20 of an advertisement managing device shown in Fig. 16.

[Fig. 18]

Fig. 18 is a block diagram showing the configuration of a customer managing device shown in Fig. 16.

[Fig. 19]

25 Fig. 19 is a diagram showing the configuration of

an information advertising system in a fourth embodiment.

[Fig. 20]

Fig. 20 shows an example in which an advertisement requested to be advertised by an advertisement client is  
5 displayed on a console panel of a copying machine.

[Fig. 21]

Fig. 21 shows an example in which the advertisement requested to be advertised by the advertisement client is displayed on the console panel of the copying machine.

10 [Description of Signs]

100, 100a, 100b, 100c advertisement client  
terminal

110 advertisement managing device

111 interface

15 112 section for acquiring the number of persons  
receiving an advertisement

113 estimation processor

114 registration processor

115 transfer processor

20 120 advertisement managing database

130 customer managing device

131 interface

132 customer information manager

133 section for selecting persons receiving an  
25 advertisement

	134	advertisement transferor
	135	section for generating an advertisement for
		each of customers
	136	advertisement data processor
5	137	controller
	140	customer managing database
	150, 150a, 150b, 150c	copying machine
	160	charge managing device
	170	sales department terminal
10	1110	bar code number allocator
	1111	customer managing device
	1120	customer managing device
	1121	bar code processor
	1130	copying machine
15	1140	POS terminal
	1600	advertisement managing device
	1601	user attribute storage
	1602	user attribute storage
	1610	customer managing device
20	1611	user attribute notifier
	1620	copying machine
	1900	server of a card company

[Type of Document] Abstract

[Abstract]

[Object] To speedily offer an advertisement to a customer with high efficiency in such a manner as to  
5 fulfill the needs of the advertisement client by the use of a system to be used for remotely managing the copying machine.

[Means] The advertisement managing device 110 receives an advertisement request from an advertisement client  
10 terminal 100. The customer managing device 130 specifies a copying machine 150 adapted to the advertisement request, and advertisement contents requested to be advertised are transmitted to the specified copying machine 150. When the advertisement  
15 managing device 110 receives an estimation request, an estimation result inclusive of the approximation of an advertisement charge is returned to the advertisement client terminal 100.

[Selected Figure] Fig. 1



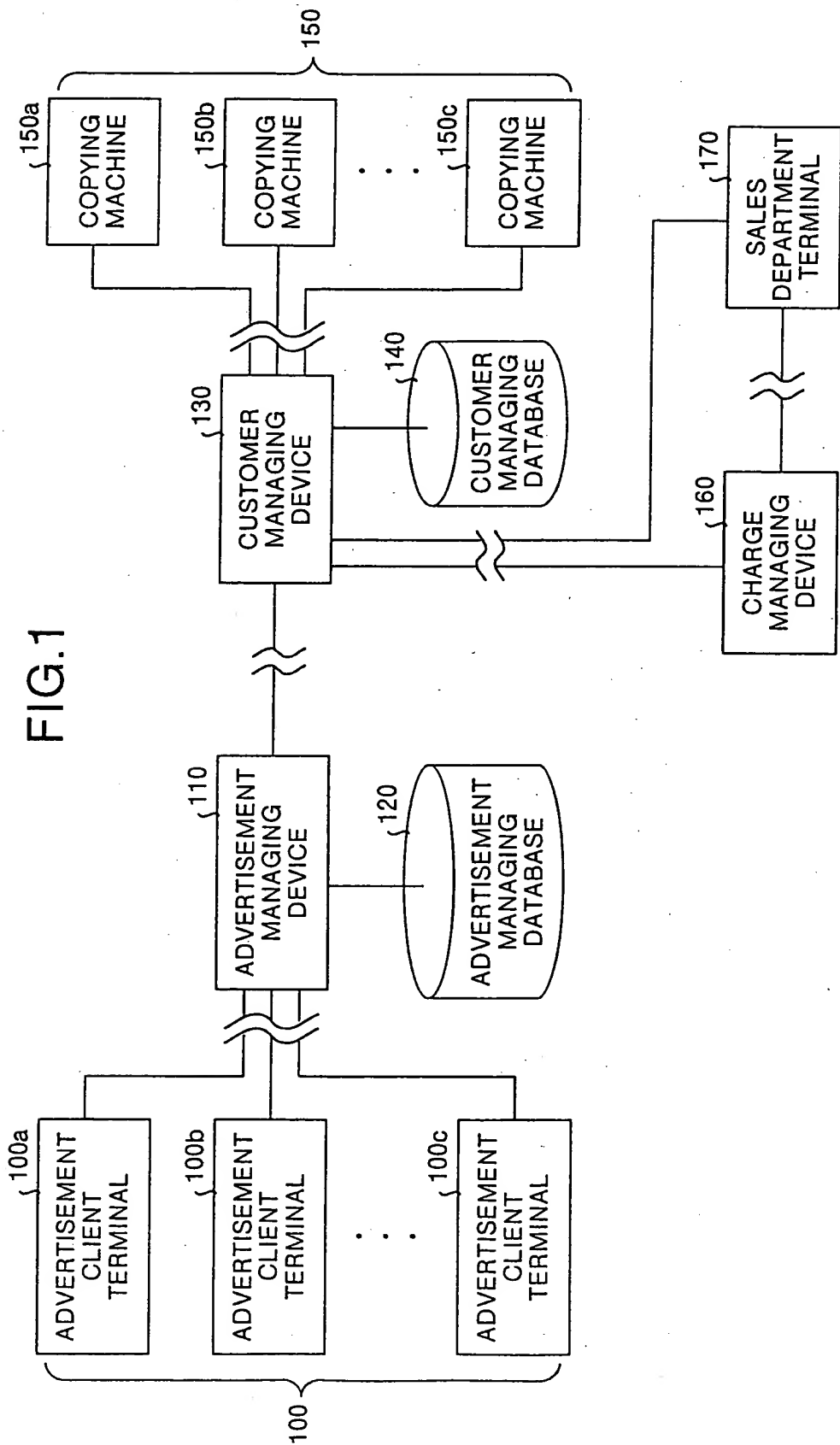


FIG.2

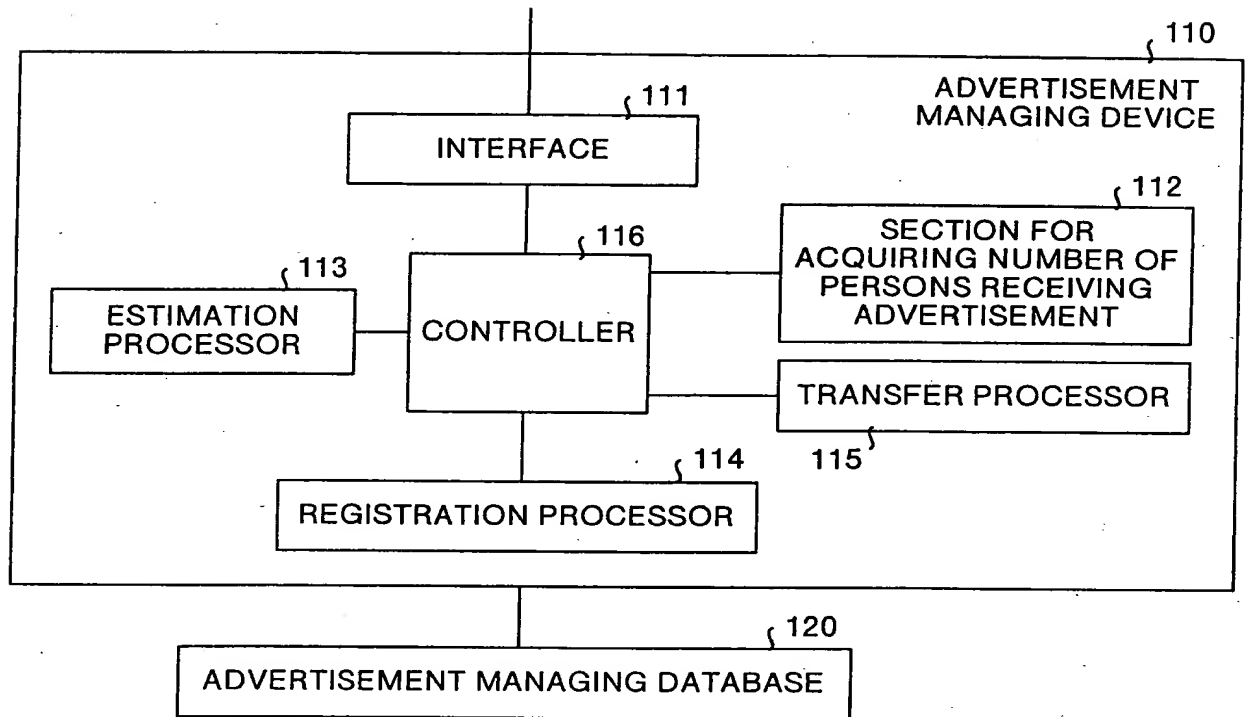


FIG.3

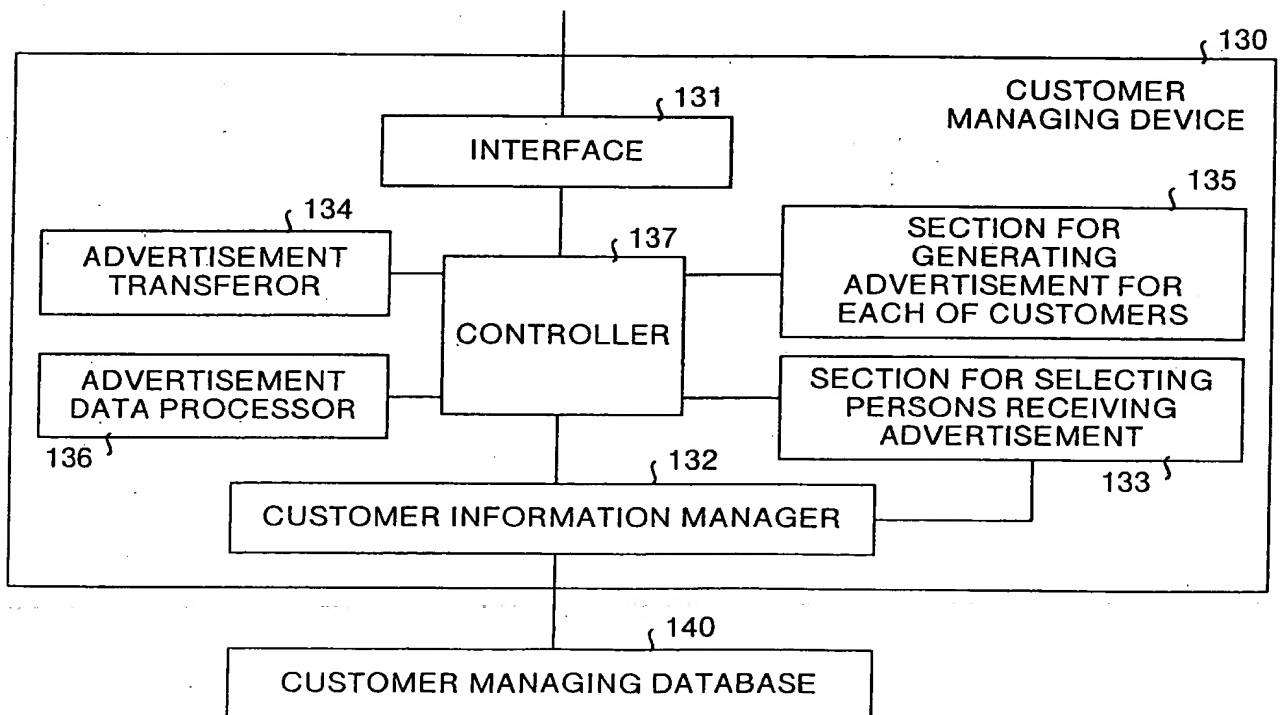


FIG.4A

400 ↗

REQUEST NUMBER	
ADVERTISEMENT CLIENT	
ADVERTISEMENT	RENOVATED AND REOPENED
DESTINATION	[ADDRESS] NAKA-MAGOME, OHTA-KU, TOKYO TEL XX-XXXX
ADVERTISEMENT TYPE	PRINTING IN RED
ADVERTISEMENT RANGE	USERS LOCATED WITHIN RADIUS OF R KM AROUND X
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SHEETS PER USER	1,000 SHEETS
TOTAL MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SHEETS	50,000 SHEETS
CONTRACT	

FIG.4B

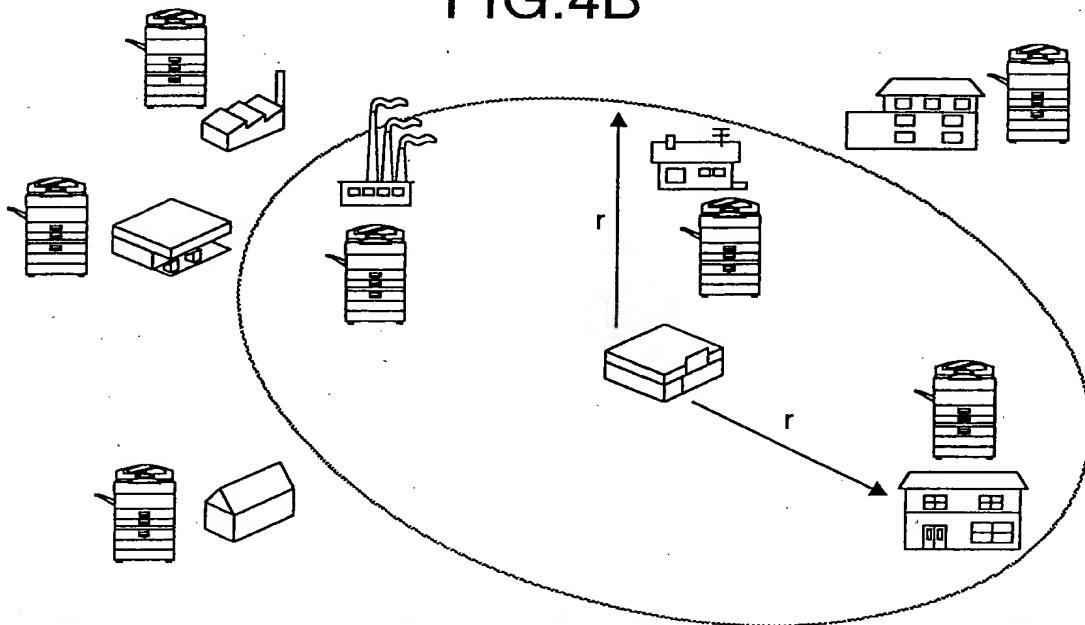


FIG.5

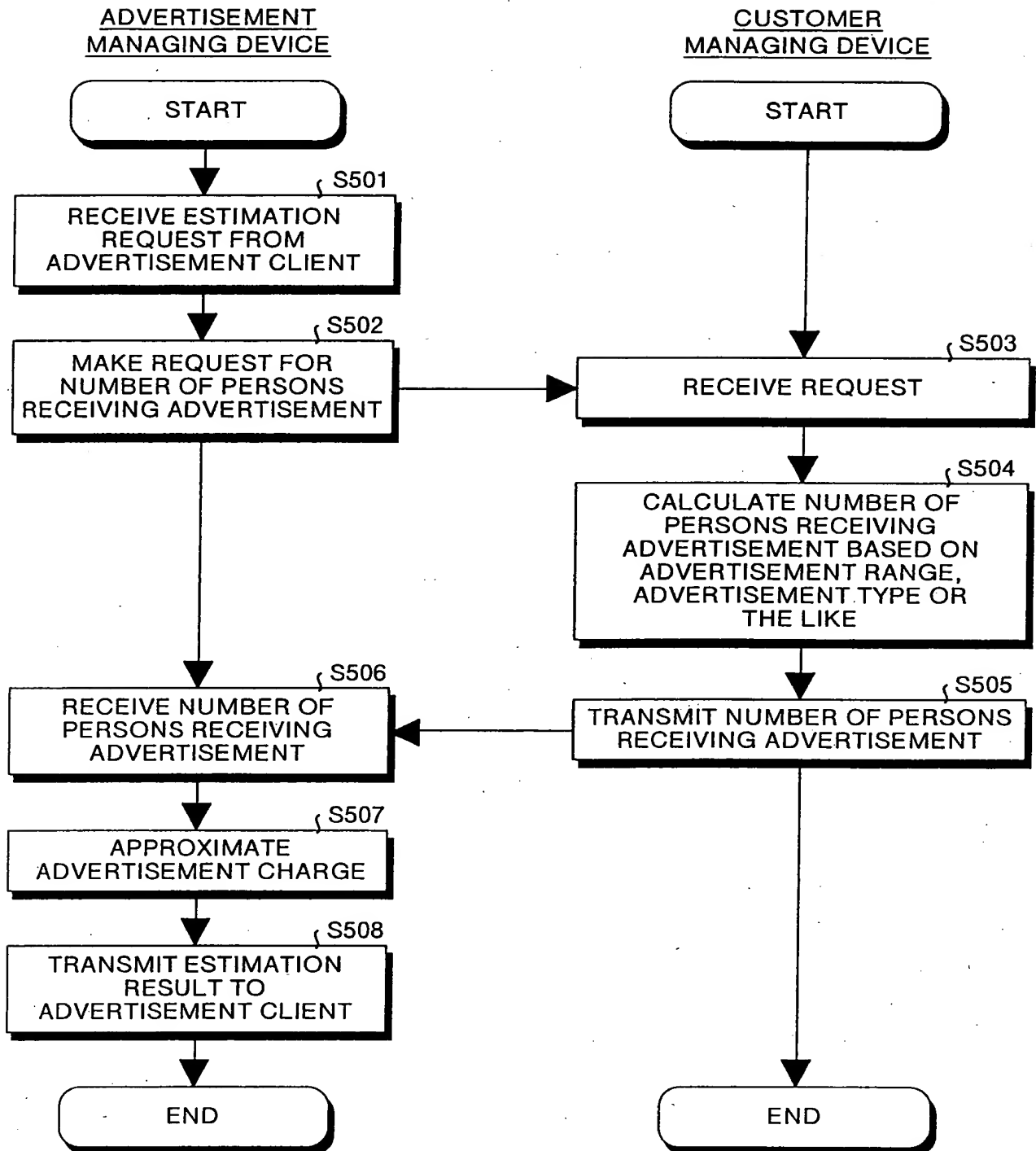


FIG.6

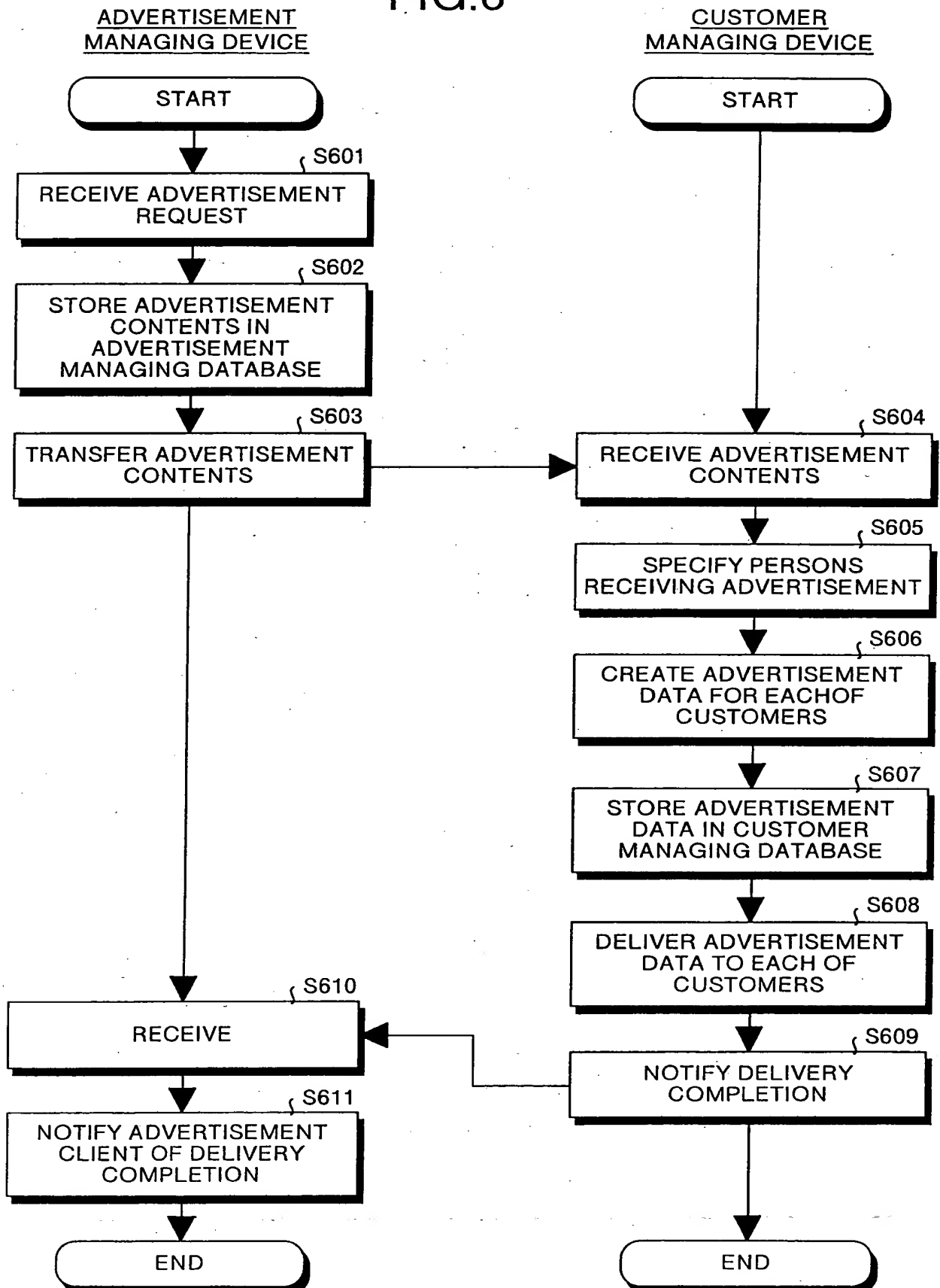


FIG. 7

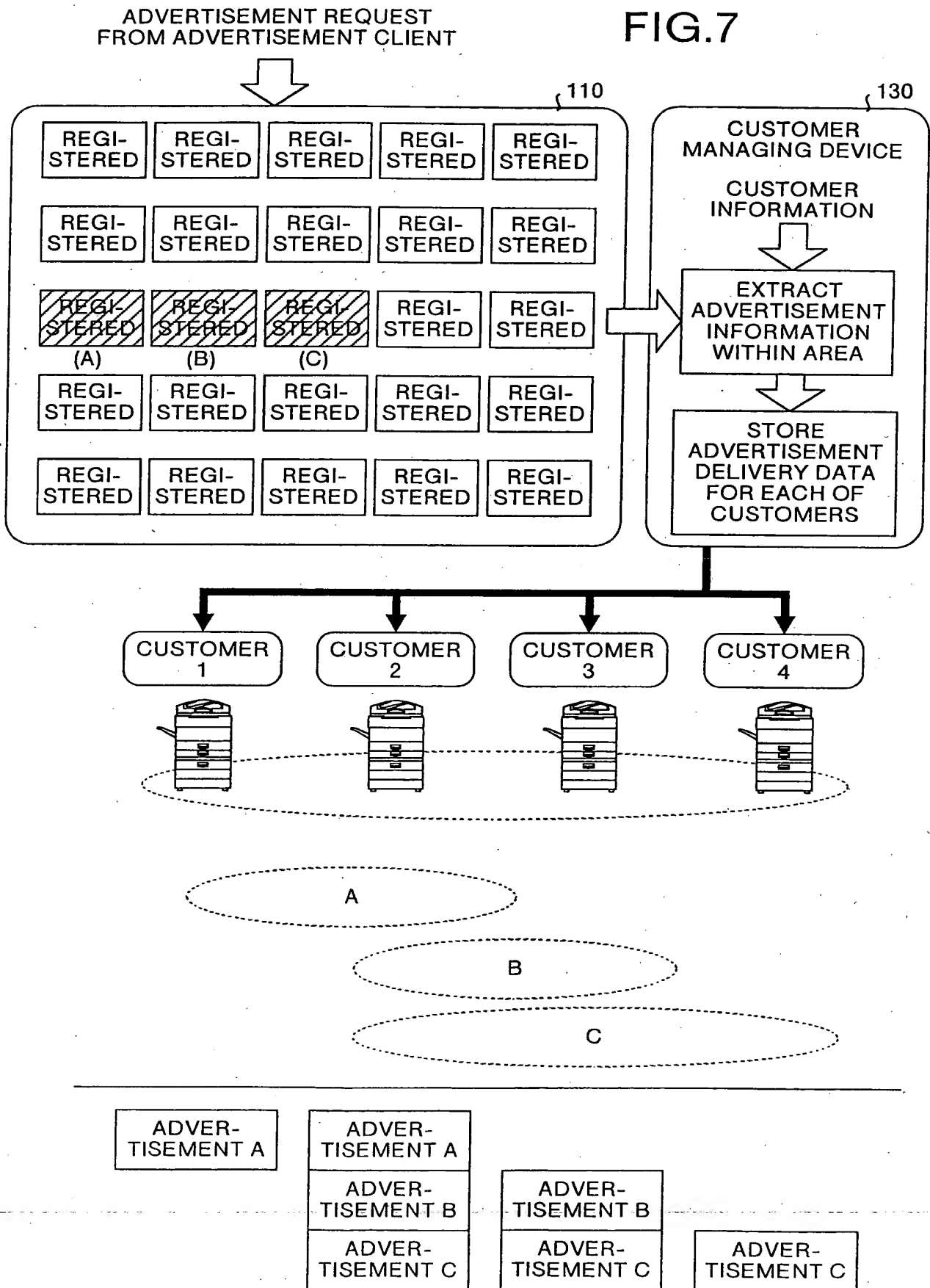


FIG.8

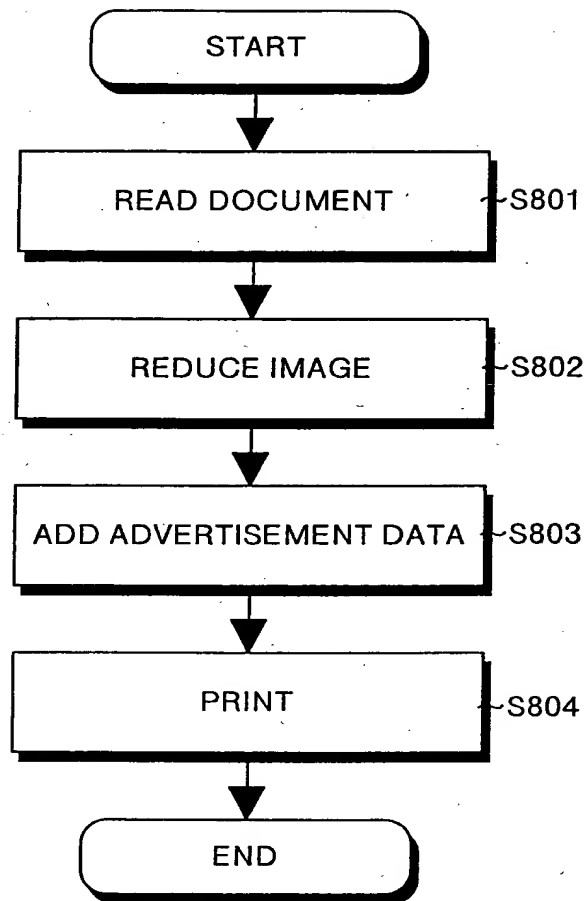


FIG.9

MAIN COPY IMAGE  
900

### 1.1 GENERAL CONFIGURATION

AN L-ADP (Line Adapter) IS ADAPTED TO TRANSMIT OR RECEIVE DATA TO OR FROM A CSS CENTER TERMINAL VIA A PUBLIC LINE. THE L-ADP IS EQUIPPED WITH A SWITCHING FUNCTION WITH A GENERAL TELEPHONE SET, A MODEM FUNCTION, A COMMUNICATION CONTROL FUNCTION AND THE LIKE. TO THE L-ADP CAN BE CONNECTED FIVE PPCS TO THE MAXIMUM. IN ADDITION, TO THE L-ADP CAN BE CONNECTED A MANAGEMENT TERMINAL FOR DISPLAYING A USER SECTION CHARGE OR CSS INFORMATION OR 27 KEY CARD COUNTERS (NOT SHOWN) TO THE MAXIMUM. SINCE THE L-ADP IS KEPT TO BE ENERGIZED FOR 24 HOURS, IT CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THE CSS CENTER TERMINAL EVEN IN THE CASE WHERE THE POWER SOURCE OF THE PPC IS OFF. THE PPC IS CONNECTED TO THE L-ADP VIA SR-485 IN A MULTIDROP FASHION.

### 1.2 INSIDE CONFIGURATION OF PPC

THE MAIN CONTROLLER OF THE PPC IS CONNECTED TO THE L-ADP VIA A Personal Interface (PI) BOARD. THE PI BOARD MAY BE INCORPORATED ON THE BOARD OF THE MAIN CONTROLLER. THERE ARE TWO TYPES IN WHICH THE MAIN CONTROLLER OF THE PPC IS CONNECTED TO THE PI: A PARALLEL TYPE AND A SERIAL TYPE.

[ADDRESS] XX-XX, NAKA-MAGOME, OHTA-KU, TOKYO

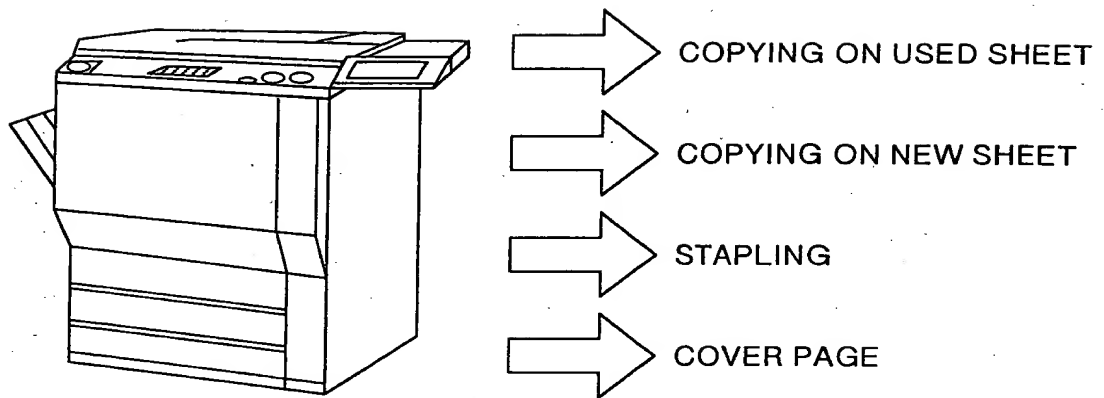
ADVERTISEMENT  
SENTENCE  
910

RENOVATED AND REOPENED TEL XX-XXXX

910  
ADVERTISEMENT  
SENTENCE



FIG.10



	COPING TYPE	POINT
A	COPYING ON USED SHEET	1
	COPYING ON NEW SHEET	2
B	COVER PAGE	2
	OTHER THAN COVER PAGE	0.5
C	STAPLING	1.5

FIG. 11

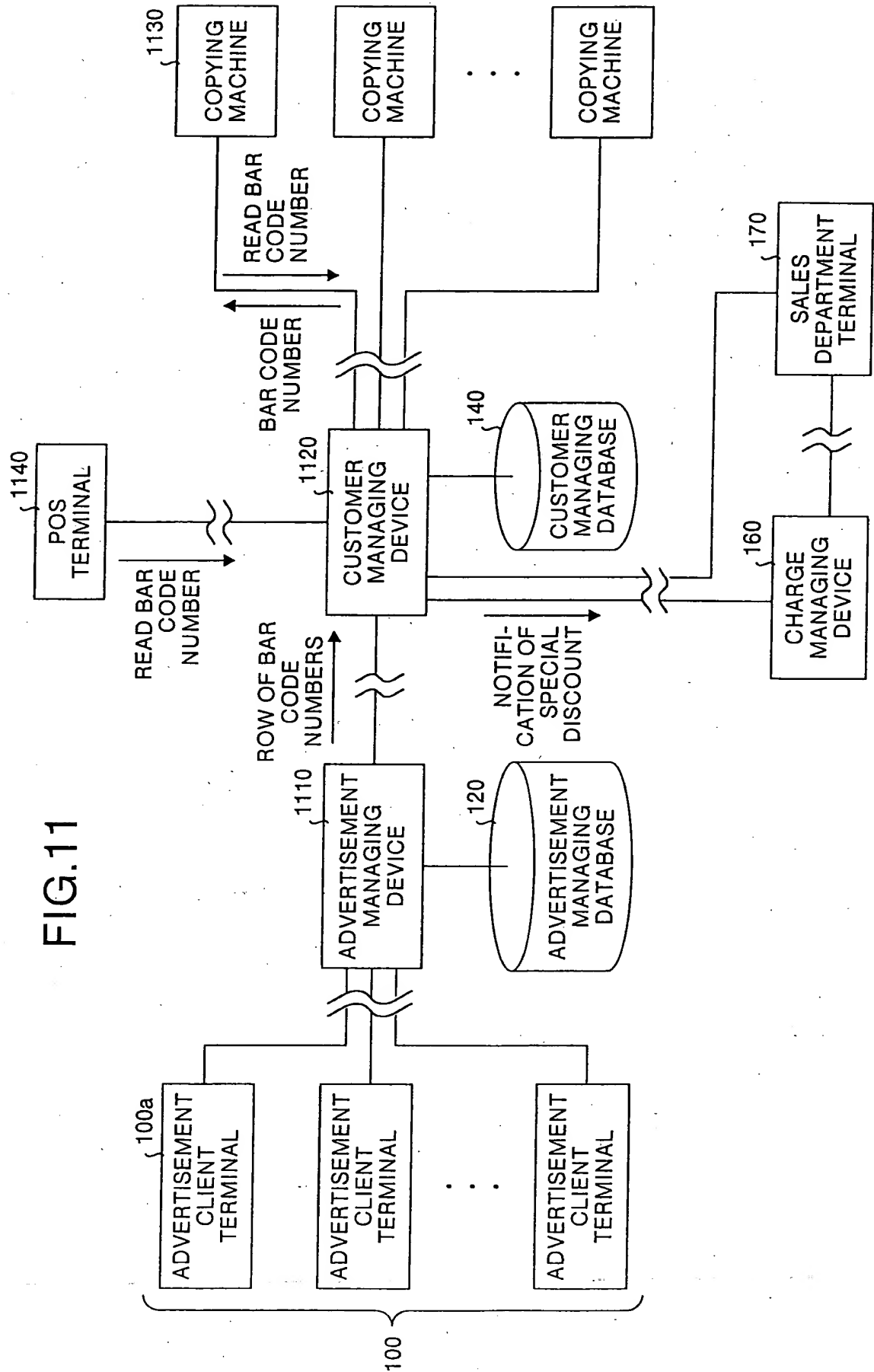


FIG.12

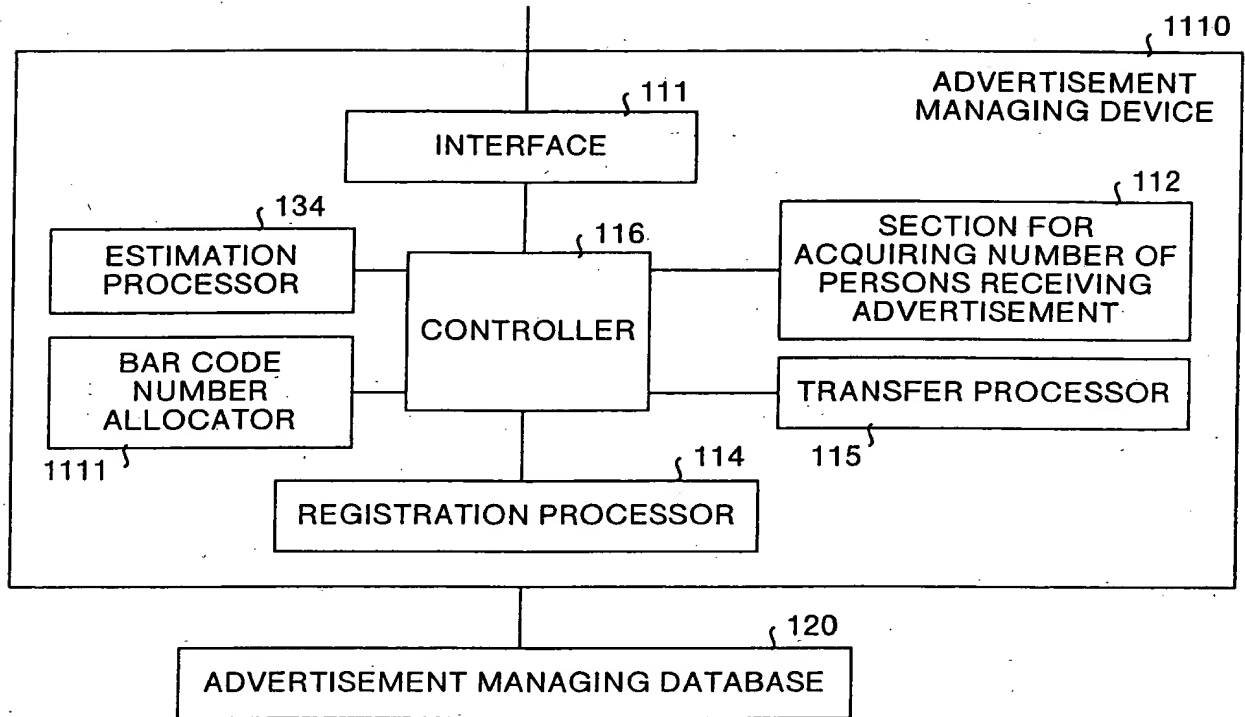
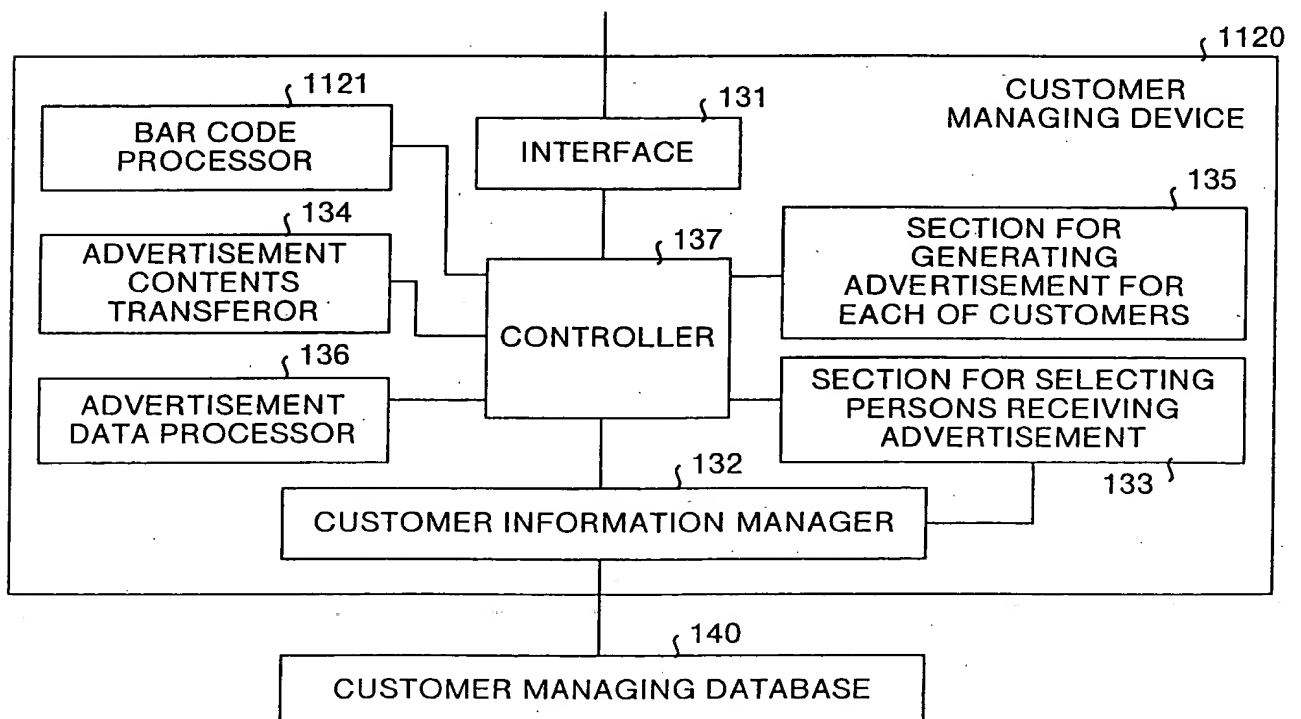


FIG.13



# FIG.14

MAIN COPY IMAGE

## 1.1 GENERAL CONFIGURATION

AN L-ADP (Line Adapter) IS ADAPTED TO TRANSMIT OR RECEIVE DATA TO OR FROM A CSS CENTER TERMINAL VIA A PUBLIC LINE. THE L-ADP IS EQUIPPED WITH A SWITCHING FUNCTION WITH A GENERAL TELEPHONE SET, A MODEM FUNCTION, A COMMUNICATION CONTROL FUNCTION AND THE LIKE. TO THE L-ADP CAN BE CONNECTED FIVE PPCS TO THE MAXIMUM. IN ADDITION, TO THE L-ADP CAN BE CONNECTED A MANAGEMENT TERMINAL FOR DISPLAYING A USER SECTION CHARGE OR CSS INFORMATION OR 27 KEY CARD COUNTERS (NOT SHOWN) TO THE MAXIMUM. SINCE THE L-ADP IS KEPT TO BE ENERGIZED FOR 24 HOURS, IT CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THE CSS CENTER TERMINAL EVEN IN THE CASE WHERE THE POWER SOURCE OF THE PPC IS OFF. THE PPC IS CONNECTED TO THE L-ADP VIA SR-485 IN A MULTIDROP FASHION.

## 1.2 INSIDE CONFIGURATION OF PPC

THE MAIN CONTROLLER OF THE PPC IS CONNECTED TO THE L-ADP VIA A Personal Interface (PI) BOARD. THE PI BOARD MAY BE INCORPORATED ON THE BOARD OF THE MAIN CONTROLLER. THERE ARE TWO TYPES IN WHICH THE MAIN CONTROLLER OF THE PPC IS CONNECTED TO THE PI: A PARALLEL TYPE AND A SERIAL TYPE.

[ADDRESS] XX-XX, NAKA-MAGOME, OHTA-KU, TOKYO

ADVERTISEMENT  
SENTENCE

RENOVATED AND REOPENED TEL XX-XXXX



FIG.15

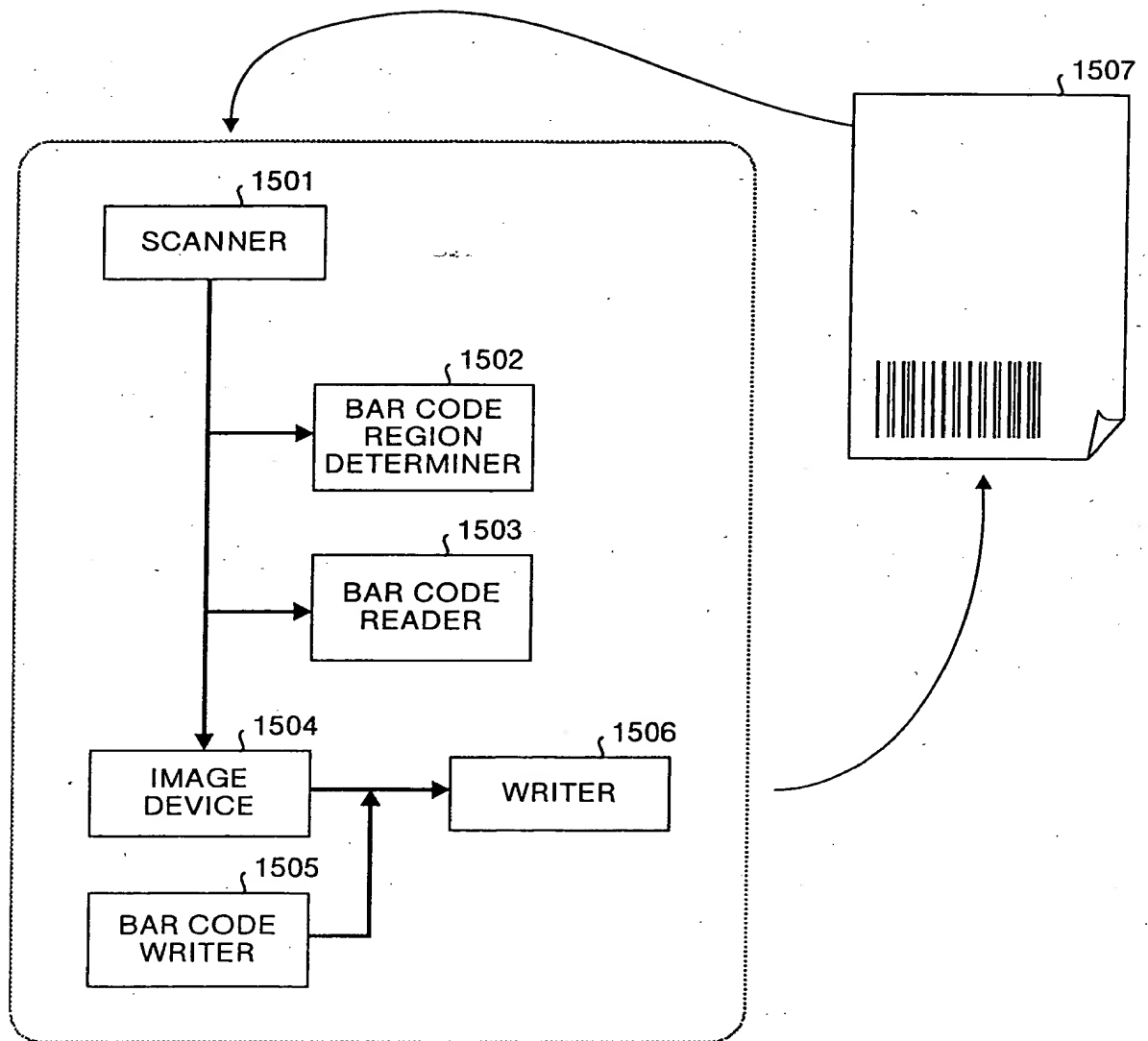


FIG.16

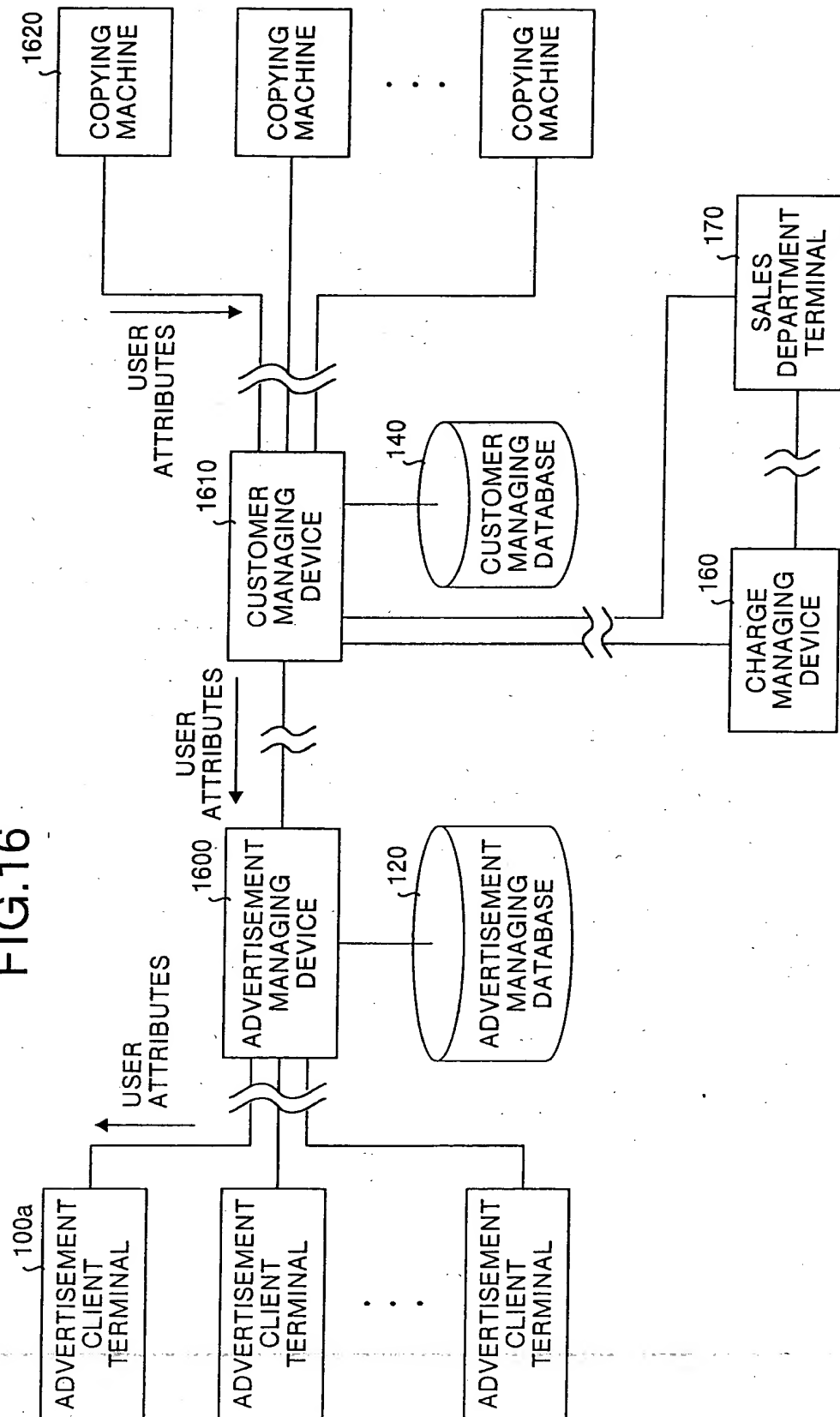


FIG.17

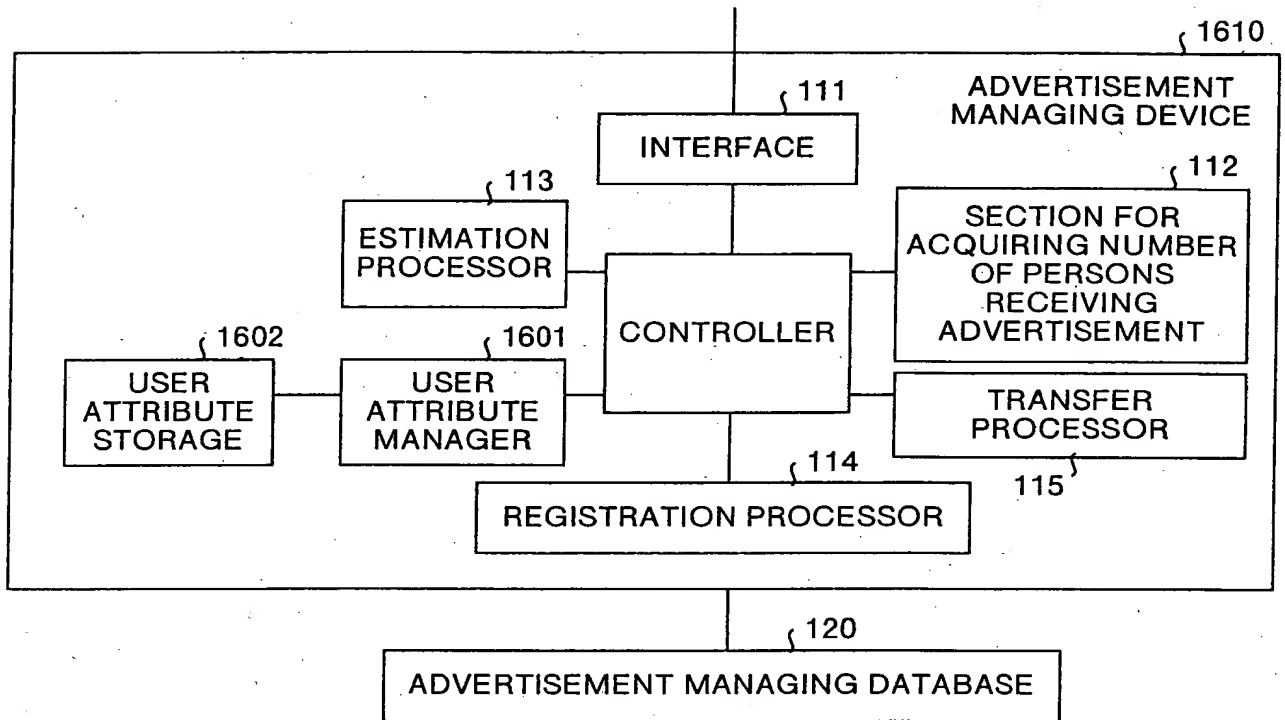


FIG.18

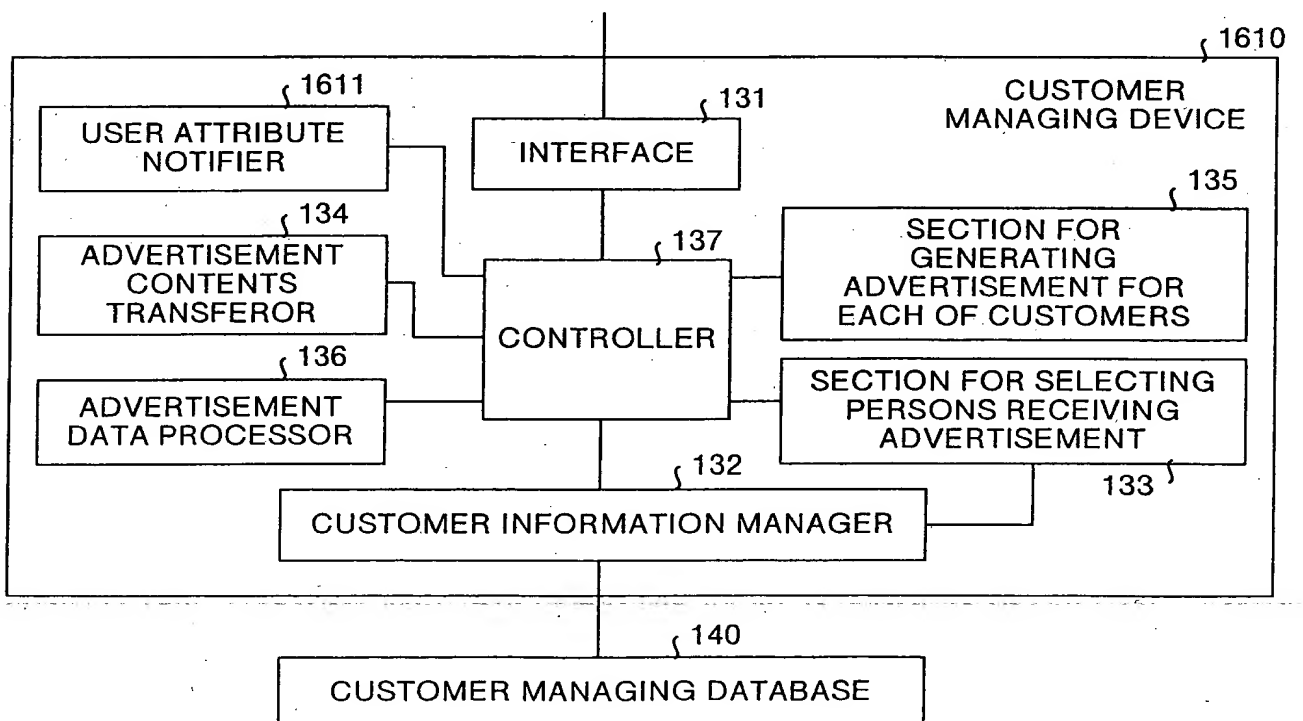


FIG.19

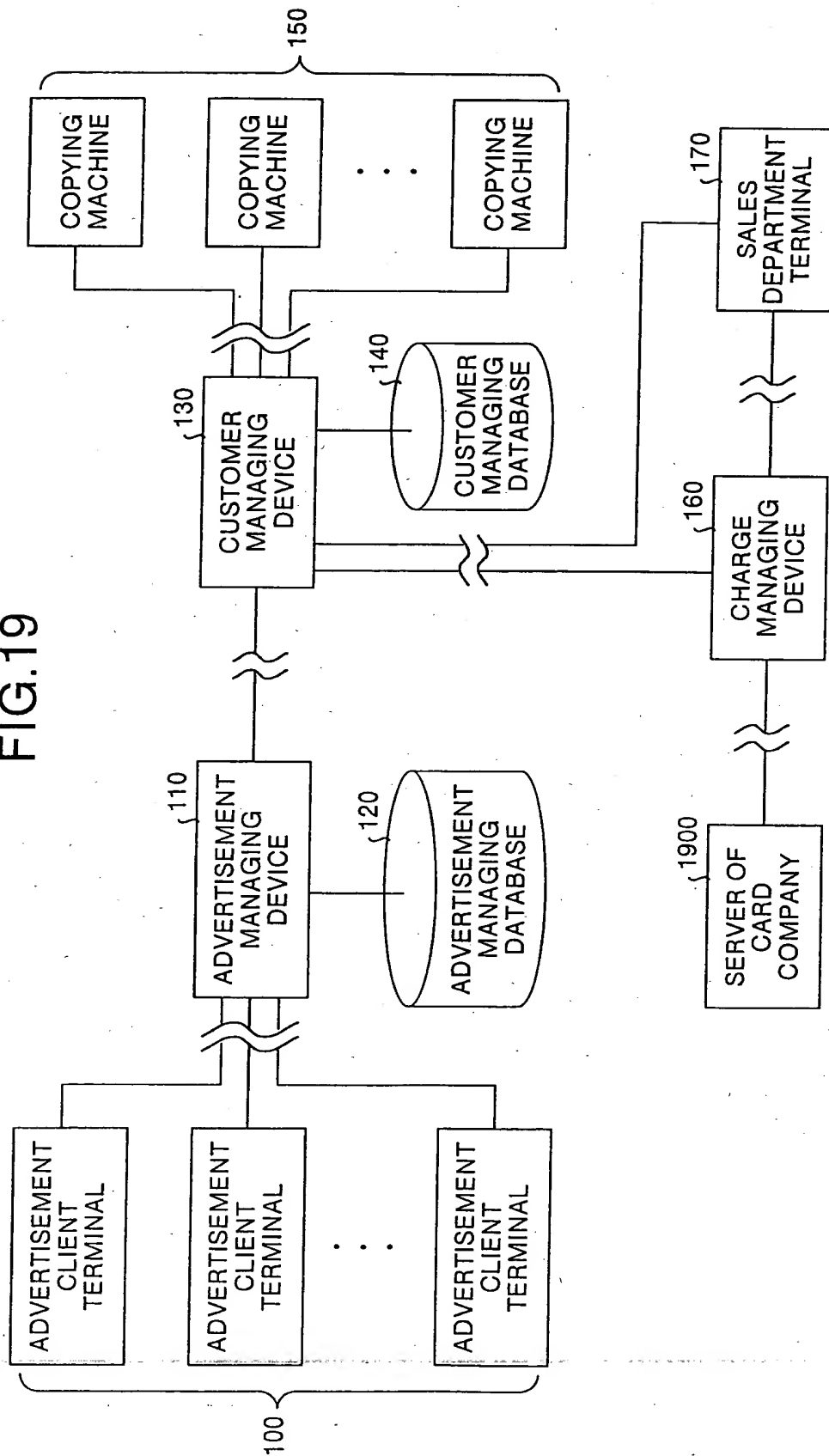
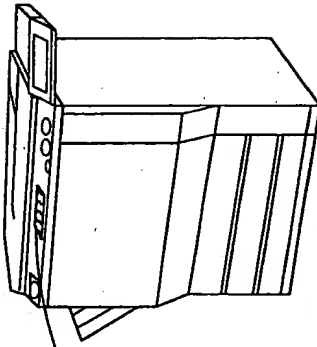




FIG.20



OPERATION  
INFORMATION REGION  
IN COPYING MACHINE  
2010

PARTLY  
ENLARGED

CHARACTER PHOTOGRAPH CHARACTER/PHOTOGRAPH LOW-CONTRAST DOCUMENT TO BE COPIED AUTOMATIC CONTRAST [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] LOW HIGH		TEN-KEY ZOOMING SIZE SCALING INDEPENDENT SCALING % INDEPENDENT SCALING mm		141% 155% 122% 141% 200% 400% 51/281/2 A4→B4 A4→A3 A5→A3 B6→B4 51/2X14 A5→B5 A5→A4 A5→A4 A5→A4 25% 51% 61% 71% 82% 87% 93% A3→A5 A3→A5 A3→A5 A3→A4 B4→A4 A3→B4 B4→A6 A4→B6 B4→B5 B5→A5 A4→B5 A4→B5		ACTUAL SIZE — +					
CHARACTER PHOTOGRAPH CHARACTER/PHOTOGRAPH LOW-CONTRAST DOCUMENT TO BE COPIED AUTOMATIC CONTRAST [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] LOW HIGH				TEN-KEY ZOOMING SIZE SCALING INDEPENDENT SCALING % INDEPENDENT SCALING mm				141% 155% 122% 141% 200% 400% 51/281/2 A4→B4 A4→A3 A5→A3 B6→B4 51/2X14 A5→B5 A5→A4 A5→A4 A5→A4 25% 51% 61% 71% 82% 87% 93% A3→A5 A3→A5 A3→A5 A3→A4 B4→A4 A3→B4 B4→A6 A4→B6 B4→B5 B5→A5 A4→B5 A4→B5		ACTUAL SIZE — +	
SIZE SELECTION THIN PAPER MANY DOCUMENTS				RENOVATED AND REOPENED SPECIAL SALE ON SEPTEMBER 1!!				2000 ADVERTISMENT AREA			
DOCUMENT POSITIONING DIRECTION [R] [C] [R] [C] REVERSE SETTING											

FIG.21

